GREATER
VANCOUVER
REGIONAL
DISTRICT

25 YEARS OF
SERVICE

93-02662/

The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) is a partnership of 18 municipalities and three electoral areas co-operating to provide essential services to the region's 1.6 million inhabitants. The history of this organization stretches back long before the organization itself was created in the late 60s. The GVRD was, in fact, predated by two single purpose districts that originated in the early part of this century: the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District, and the Greater Vancouver Water District. As their name implies, these two Districts each focused on one essential service; the regional district would combine these and other essential services under one roof. Today, the Sewerage District and the Water District still exist as corporate entities, together with the Greater Vancouver Regional Hospital District and the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation. For all practical purposes, however, the organizations function under the umbrella of the GVRD, using one common administrative staff and board of directors, with the exception of the Housing District which has its own board.

From the very beginning, the GVRD has largely financed itself on a fee-for-service basis. Member municipalities are billed on a proportional basis for services provided. Municipalities, in turn, transfer these charges to municipal taxpayers. It is this sense of service to the member municipalities that has marked the operations of the organization and its predecessors.

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ESSENTIAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE GVRD

WATER

SEWER

SOLID WASTE

AIR QUALITY

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

REGIONAL PARKS

MUNICIPAL LABOUR RELATIONS

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION FINANCING & HEALTH SERVICES PLANNING

REGION SERVICED

3,249 SQUARE KILOMETRES OF URBAN, SUBURBAN, RURAL, AND WILDERNESS AREAS

$2.3 billion long range capital plan (1991-97), covering all functions of the GVRD, approved by Board.

Member municipalities indicated strong support for *Creating Our Future* action program.

Board recommended management and operation of regional public transit become a GVRD function.

Agreement signed with the Government of Canada, the Province of B.C., and Vancouver Port Corporation to improve the environmental quality of Burrard Inlet.

First grants allocated under the GVRD's new grants policy, to the Vancouver Symphony and Vancouver Opera.

New maintenance/operations centre opened in Lake City, Burnaby.

Seismic upgrading of dams and other structures started.

Major water supply projects completed in Coquitlam, Burnaby, and Surrey.

Nearly 200,000 visits recorded at the Seymour Demonstration Forest, part of the Seymour Watershed.

Comprehensive review of watershed management program, with public input, completed.

Green Zone Conference discussed idea of preserving certains areas from urban development.

Task force began studying role of the bicycle in regional transportation planning.

GVRD became full participating member in FREMP, Fraser River Estuary Management Program.

Engineering started on secondary treatment facilities at Annacis & Lulu Island treatment plants.

Construction started on sludge dewatering facility at Lions Gate treatment plant.

Progress on plans to eliminate combined sewer overflows to Burrard Inlet and Fraser River.

Encouraging results from test programs using sewage sludge as a form of fertilizer.

First stage review to determine solid waste management initiatives to year 2000 and beyond.

Steam sales from Burnaby incinerator increased 25%.

Stage 2 of Cache Creek landfill site prepared for disposal of waste.

8,000 visits to Compost Demonstration Garden in Burnaby, for information and instruction on backyard composting.

$60 million spent on construction and equipment, much of it on major construction projects at Vancouver General and Royal Columbian.

225-bed St. Vincent's Langara Hospital opened.

Polluter-pay principle adopted to improve air quality and source control.

GVRD and the Lower Mainland regional districts propose strategy for collectively managing Lower Mainland airshed.

Air Quality Management Bylaw released for public comment and review.

Source Control Bylaw amended, allowing fees to be charged for sewer discharge permits.

First phase of source control bylaw implemented.

PARKS

■ Agreement concluded with B.C.Nature Trust to jointly purchase Widgeon Marsh, Coquitlam, as a regional park reserve.

■ 2.5 km wheelchair accessible nature trail opened at Campbell Valley Regional Park in Langley Township.

■ Floating walkway opened at Sasamat Lake, Belcarra Regional Park, near Port Moody.

■ GVRD assumed operation of popular Centennial Beach, Boundary Bay Regional Park, Delta.

■ Over 4 million visits to regional parks.

COMMUNICATIONS & EDUCATION

■ Department established to develop and implement a comprehensive public education program.

■ Air quality communications plan.

■ Growth management and transportation public consultation program.

■ Liquid waste public involvement strategy.

■ Reorganization of solid waste education program.

HOUSING

■ Construction started on Alderwood Place, an affordable housing development in Richmond.

LABOUR RELATIONS

■ Major labour negotiations underway with CUPE, VMREU, and 11 Firefighters' Union locals.

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3,249 SQUARE KILOMETRES OF URBAN, SUBURBAN, RURAL, AND WILDERNESS AREAS

POPULATION SERVED
1.6 MILLION

A Special Report From the Chairperson

Times are changing and the Greater Vancouver Regional District must also change — dramatically — in order to keep up.

It was with that goal in mind that the GVRD Board of Directors adopted the "Creating Our Future" program in 1990. Over 4,000 people from 18 municipalities, from all walks of life and of all political persuasions, participated in Creating Our Future. It established a shared vision for our region. It showed that the people who live here are willing to challenge the conventional wisdom that has led to the demise of so many North American cities.

Creating Our Future, supported by each of the 18 municipal councils that compose the GVRD, is a blueprint for action — action at the regional, municipal, and personal levels. It is a document that calls for a change in the way we customarily conduct our lives.

25 years ago the people that legislated the GVRD into existence understood that more was to be gained by working together than by standing apart. They understood that our regional diversity would best be served by establishing a system of government that required everyone to search for common ground while accepting each community's distinguishing characteristics. We continue to build on that founding principle.

Over the last 25 years, Greater Vancouver has led the nation in terms of population growth. We have come together to create 17 regional parks with an area 23 times the area of Stanley Park. We have contributed millions of dollars to hospital construction. We have continued to supply the region with high quality drinking water.

Today, people in Greater Vancouver have decided they want to become personally involved in improving the air quality so that our children breathe cleaner air at the end of the century than they are today. We have decided to save our green spaces, to protect our wetlands, to maintain our agriculture and fishing industry, to encourage knowledge-based industries, and to restore the Fraser River and Burrard Inlet.

Our region need not become a sprawling, formless urban area. We can create a region that fosters diversity, that celebrates our natural geography, and that recognizes the enormous resources of those who live here.

Creativity and determination are needed to accomplish our goals. It will also require an enormous investment of our dollars. Over the next year we will again have to work hard to restructure government and to focus our resources to reach our common goals.

Creating Our Future summons all of us to put aside the past, to stop reacting to the present, and to start working towards creating a better future. It aims at nothing short of setting the example that others will follow in giving regional government new meaning, establishing stronger ties of regional citizenship, and re-establishing the connection between regional government and the municipalities served.

It has been said that in our dreams lie our responsibilities. Creating Our Future wove together our dreams and our responsibilities. By the end of this decade, I am confident that those who live here now will be able to look back with pride on the steps we took on their behalf to put our stated values into action.

Gordon Campbell,
Chairperson

HISTORICAL THREADS

As we reflect upon the past — 77 years for the Sewerage and Drainage District, 65 years for the Water District and, in 1992, 25 years for the parent GVRD — we cannot help but notice a distinct parallel with today. We are a region in which population growth has been the driving force behind much of what has been accomplished. At the turn of the century, massive population growth led to the construction of dams, water works, and sewer systems. In the 50s and 60s, rapid population increase created the need for even larger dams, the introduction of sewage treatment, and better planning for solid waste. Now another population bulge had forced us to address transportation, parkland, waste disposal, and hospital construction.

We also see an historically consistent desire for what could be termed the "good life": high quality water, unpolluted urban and rural air, clean lakes, recreation areas, a nice place to live. In decades recent and far removed, we see the same needs, the same wants from people.

History proves that these needs and wants can best be met with imagination and long term vision. Dr. E. A. Cleveland, the first Commissioner of the Water District, is a good example. In the 1920s, he imagined a costly water supply system that could provide our current population with drinking water. At the time, the region barely had a third of that population. Dr. Cleveland knew, however, that in spite of the expense and opposition, it was the right thing to do. Today, we owe him a great debt for his foresight and determination.

Population pressure, a demand for the good life, long term vision — these are the historical threads that bind us to our past and point the way toward our future.

Today, as we move into the 90s, we are confronted with these same issues, with the understanding that long-term vision is our only solution. In 1991, we developed a 7-year long range plan, profiled on page 23, for our activities. The cost for this program is predicted to be several billion dollars. Ultimately, it is the region's ratepayers who will support this cost to develop hospitals, parks, water supply, air quality, sewerage upgrading, and solid waste disposal programs. But having looked back at history and now having looked forward to the future, the final question is one of value for money. Do we believe these programs, admittedly expensive, are reasonable and necessary in order to protect our environment and our quality of life? We think they are.

B.E. Marr, Regional Manager

At 10pm, on March 25th, 1889, something happened that would change this region for the better. At that hour, the first water flowed through an underwater pipe from the Capilano River to the south shore of Burrard Inlet. It was the start of what would become, many years later, a regional water system. It was also the foundation of the idea that municipalities could provide their infrastructure services better and cheaper by working together, by co-operating. The touchstone of this co-operation was water and sewer. It's where the Greater Vancouver Regional District began.

SHARP PRACTICE *In 1886, two private companies vied to supply the newly incorporated City of Vancouver with water. The Vancouver Waterworks Co. won, it is said, through "sharp practice". Undaunted, the rival Coquitlam Waterworks Co. turned around and sold the City of New Westminster a water system, building an intake on Coquitlam Lake and running a pipeline to New Westminster in 1891.*

The first Coquitlam Lake Dam was a rock-filled crib structure put up by B.C. Electric for power generation. But between 1900 to 1910, the region grew from 41,000 to 175,000 people, each newcomer demanding more electricity. So in 1913, B.C. Electric built a bigger dam (above) 60 feet higher than the original, making Coquitlam Lake the first significant reservoir lake in the region's water system. In raising the lake, the first intake was rendered useless. Another was built in 1914 — it and the dam are still in use today, supplying water to hundreds of thousands of people.

To build the second Coquitlam Dam, 544,710 cubic yards of rock were placed by hand, cable car, and slurry — a mix of small rock, water, and fill sluiced to the site by a sloped wooden guideway.

JJ & CO *He was a big, tough railroad engineer who favoured a brown derby, a thick walrus moustache, and cigars that would choke a mule. John Joseph Nickson was a man who built things. As the first Superintendent of the Vancouver Waterworks Co., it was his men who laid the first watermain across the Narrows. He then founded a company called Vancouver Construction Co. to capitalize on the boom caused by the coming of the railroad to the city. His company built Vancouver's first sewers, made of wood, and the region's first septic tanks. He, Henry Smith, George Keefer and Arthur Hill could rightly be described as the region's first water and sewer engineers.*

THE WINNER *The Vancouver Waterworks Company's plan called for tapping the Capilano River, running a pipe from the river, under the First Narrows, to Stanley Park. In the great water debate of 1887, it was pointed out that a watermain under the heavily travelled Narrows would be vulnerable. Sure enough, in 1890, barely a year after the pipe was laid, the RMS Abyssinia dragged an anchor through it. Ex-Royal Navy diver Dick Llewellyn (above, far right) was sent down to fix it. He was cheered on by family, friends, and his boss. The indomitable J.J.Nickson can be seen standing by the mast in his trademark brown derby.*

Two years later, the City bought the privately owned system for $454,182.03 — then a king's ransom, today a steal.

TIMELINE

1886
Vancouver Waterworks Co.

1886
The rival Coquitlam

1888
Wooden dam built on

1888
First sewer built in

When you shake Charlie Croizier's hand, it's like grabbing hold of a vice. Even in his 80s, you can still feel the strength in his arms, still see that straight back and wry smile.

You can easily imagine those hands working pumps and compressors in 1927. Charlie was a casual labourer then, one of the many breaking their backs building the Seymour Dam.

He smiles. "We were getting 50¢ an hour".

It's an irony of history that most of it happens by accident. Charlie's a good case in point. He probably wouldn't have spent his life working for the GVRD if it hadn't been for the concrete foreman's cranky old Model T Ford.

"It was bust and I fixed it up. Got it going. He thought I was some kind of mechanical genius. Offered me a job as a mechanic."

He laughs. "When I walked into the shop, there was nothing there. Place was empty. The only tools they had were a hammer and a wrench."

In 1928, being the Water District's mechanic was a pretty vague job description. The mechanic fixed everything and anything that had moving parts, including pumps. Charlie frequently found himself on the diving boat, tending to the air pump for Jack Bruce down below.

As it turned out, that was his lucky break. When they put a 48" steel pipe across the Second Narrows in 1948, Charlie was a logical choice for General Foreman on the job. He knew boats, he knew the tides, and he could damn near fix anything.

It was a ticket to one of the top slots in the Water District. Charlie wryly comments, "When you don't have too many brains, you need to show a lot of energy."

Energy and common sense made Charlie one hell of a construction foreman. He was given to boundless energy and had the knack of popping up suddenly to soothe an irate homeowner or talk a field engineer into doing the sensible thing. Eventually, they made him Superintendent of Construction, the man in charge of everything built, because he earned it.

Charlie is more modest. He shrugs, "I was blessed with a lot of energy. Guys like Vic Terry had more brains in their feet than I had in my head."

Maybe. But men with brains only designed our water and sewer system. It was men with energy, common sense, diplomacy, and a pocketful of lists that actually built them. Men like Charlie.

History always seems so remote — until you shake the hand that built a piece of it.

Charlie helped build the first concrete Seymour Falls dam (above).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Highways, bridges, power plants, dams — after the Second World War ended, the building was infectious. The country was modernizing, building the infrastructure a depression and a world war had delayed and a booming population demanded. Nowhere was this more true than British Columbia. The 40s, 50s, and 60s were years of great expansion for the GVRD.

VISIONARY ■ *Years ago, on the bottom of Burrard Inlet, there used to be an iron watermain on which was carved the initials "EAC": Ernest Albert Cleveland. Universally known as "The Chief", he was the District's first Water Commissioner, appointed in 1926. An engineer, a Baptist, a Scotsman, he presided over a major expansion of the region's first water and sewer systems, seeing to the financing of both. His dour force of character didn't make him a popular man but it made him an effective one. He pressured a reluctant Board to approve massive expenditures to provide "water for a million" when the region's population was barely a third of that figure. Cleveland's long-range planning, it could be argued, provides the water that today flows from your taps at such a low cost.*

The 50s were a golden age for young, qualified engineers just getting out of school. In the fall of 1952, Jack Meeks was one of those young, soon-to-be qualified men. He had a few months to go on his UBC engineering degree when he lucked into a job as an instrument man laying out the Cleveland Dam.

As it turned out, it was also a golden age for young, 29-year old second mates, just out of the merchant navy. Hans Krause washed up on the shores of the Water District, September 12th, 1957.

He smiles, as he remembers his first job. "I was a guard. I started at the lower barrier on the Seymour." By January, he had become a timekeeper on sewer construction.

Curiously enough, timekeeper was also Anne Austrom's second job at the GVRD. Then, she worked at the Annacis Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, a facility that Jack helped engineer. Today, she works on a sewer maintenance crew.

There have been many changes since the golden days of the 50s. Back then, Water and Sewer were pretty much the same outfit. Jack explains, "I worked on every aspect: river crossings, dams, structures, pipelines, treatment plants. Today, there's not the interchangeability."

Between them, Hans and Jack have seen the water and sewer system expand from a gravity-fed system to pump assisted; from no wastewater treatment plants to four; from no pumping stations to 34.

But what Hans, Jack and others built, now Anne and her crewmates maintain. In this sense, these three say something about the march of time. They also demonstrate an historical truth — the system isn't just concrete and valves, it's muscle and skill, too. People built it, people maintain it, and we rely on them.

TIMELINE

1912
First watermain laid across the Fraser River

1913
Second Coquitlam Dam built

1913
R.S. Lea Report: first sewer master-plan completed

1914
Vancouver & District Joint Sewerage & Drainage Board created

CHARLIE CROIZIER

Hired as a labourer in 1927, retired as the Construction Super in 1971. Once, Charlie and his boys worked all night to clear the Cleveland Dam's 'trash racks' of debris, sent down by a flash flood. Exhausted, near dawn, they had to give up, dynamiting the racks open. Charlie looked down to see his numbed hands dripping blood, skinned by the stumps and the trunks.

FRANK BUNNELL

Frank was pretty much a kid in '45 when he was hired. When he retired in 1980, he was Commissioner of Operations. He had a notoriously dry wit, once describing the municipal politicians of the day that ran the District as "part time help".

EARL McLAREN

Earl was old Dan McLaren's boy. Like his father, Earl became a construction foreman and was nicknamed The Cougar for his habit, as the story goes, for always "growling at the boys." He hired on in the middle of the Depression, 1933, and retired in 1967.

LORNE SHORTER

Lorne was the GVRD's last diver. That was poetic, in a way, because he knew the District's first diver, Dick Llewellyn. Lorne got the diving job after VE day in '45. He had worked for Pacific Salvage raising ditched air force trainers from the bottom of the ocean. Laying and fixing pipe underwater was no less of a challenge.

KEN PATRICK

Ken started as a field engineer in 1937, became the Water Commissioner eventually, and resigned in 1966. When this picture was taken, Ken and the boys were standing atop a 48" waterman being laid across the Second Narrows. They look confident here, but Ken was later to describe it as "a beast of a thing."

DAMS ■ *The first dam on the Capilano River was a rock-filled, timber structure that took 18 months to build. The next would take 20 years of planning, cajoling, a great depression and a world war before it was completed. The $16.5 million, 325 foot high concrete dam was finally opened in 1954 and was named, rightly so, after its chief mastermind, E.A.Cleveland. Tragically, he wasn't at the opening. He died before he could see the dream finished.*

HONEYMOON ■ *Al Goldberg, seen here lining up hinge anchor castings on the Cleveland Dam, got married in the middle of the project. The boys gave him a big send off as he proudly drove away in his shiny, late Model Ford, new bride at his side. By the end of the honeymoon, the Ford was a wreck, having been charged by a moose. Bride came back, though.*

1913
First World War: watersheds closed to the public for fear

1920
Wooden dam built on

1920s
Major sewer lines built

1924
Rock crib dam built on

1926
Greater Vancouver

FOUNDATION

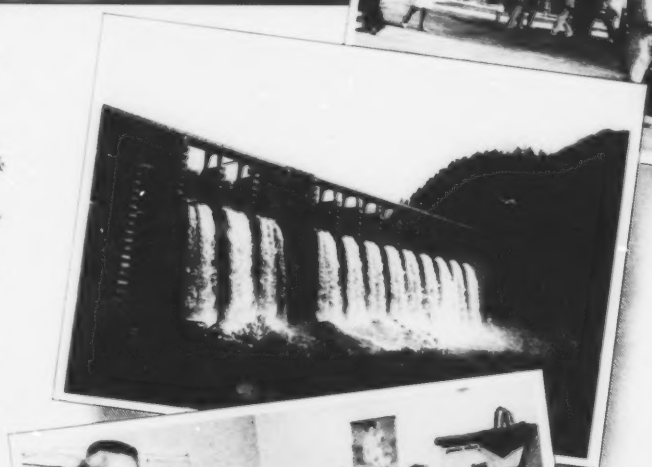
In 1914, R.S. Lea drafted a masterplan for the region's sewer system. One of his guiding principles was to "build a system today that will meet the needs of tomorrow." In Lea's mind, this was good economics. It was a principle that, thankfully, was applied to both sewer and water systems. By the early 60s, the infrastructure was in place for decades to come. Improvements would come, but we had the foundation.

CRACK SHOTS & AERIAL MULES ■ *In 1961, they finished building the last dam in the water system. Seymour Falls was a replacement for the earlier 22 foot high dam, the new one being 90 feet tall. As the project progressed, spirits inside the site's construction shack (middle photo) ran high. Vic Terry (left), operations super, and Earl 'The Cougar' McLaren (right), foreman, both wore big smiles.*

Earl was one of the District's legendary characters. One day in the watershed, his crew was using a block and tackle mounted high in a tree. To get the block down, Earl pulled out his rifle and shot it down — he was that kind of guy.

Vic was an ex-air force wing commander and was hired initially to pilot helicopters for the District — that was before they found out a pilot's salary at $300 a month was a steal compared to the price of a Bell 47 at $35,000. In 1949, that was big money.

They didn't give up on helicopters, though. They hired a rinky dink two-man outfit called Okanagan Air Service to help rebuild a dam on Palisade Lake, one of the high mountain lakes, in '49. This was the first time anybody had tried using the new-fangled machines as aerial mules and it showed. The pilot, Carl Agar, would throw two bags of cement on each side, pile rocks into the co-pilot's seat, and take off precariously balanced. One time, they weren't quite sure how to haul a 400lb cement mixer into the remote lake, so the boys just tied it to the tiny machine's legs and yelled, "Go, Carl!". The pioneering technique shaved months off the construction of the Palisade and Burwell Lake dams.



AM RAWN ■ *The Baby Boom and government-sponsored immigration of the 50s soon made Lea's original idea of emptying untreated sewage into the ocean obsolete. There was simply too much of it for dilution to be the solution. AM Rawn, a noted sanitary engineer from Los Angeles, was the man they hired to think up some new ideas. His report laid plans for two treatment plants, one for the north shore communities and one for the south shore. Lion's Gate was the first plant to open on August 3, 1961 (above). The curious thing about Rawn was that no one ever found out his first name. "It was AM Rawn without the periods," recalled Ken Patrick. "It embarrassed him. He didn't want to talk about it."*

JACK OF ALL TRADES

■ *The people who built the infrastructure had to be adept. Gar Thompson, who joined the District as a firefighter in 1930, was once detailed to build a boat! They needed a vessel to clear the newly created Capilano Lake of floating debris. So Gar, and a couple of others, built the "H.B.Smith". Did a fine job, too — the Smith stayed in service for over 30 years.*

Walking into the old blacksmith's shop at the Beach maintenance yard, you can almost hear the ring of Oscar Arndt's hammer, drawing out another piece of steel.

"God, he was a good man. Really knew his stuff," remembers George Silverton, standing in the shell of the disused building. George started working with the District before the war. "On and off, you know," he explains.

Then came 1939, and all the young men rushed off to join up.

"They wouldn't have me," he laughs. "Said they wanted to win the war, not lose it."

So George went to war work in Burrard Shipyards, until 1946 when he started driving a Ford 5-ton for the Water District. He spent the next 30 years on the job, eventually becoming Supervisor of

60s. That's where he and Oscar met, over the years becoming friends, helping each other.

"He liked my pounding. There's a certain way you've got to draw steel. He'd leave stuff until I had half a day off and then I'd go draw for him."

George stands in the gutted interior of the building, fingering a disused bolt from a threading machine he likely bought for Oscar. It was George who first modernized the smithy.

"Oscar passed on a while ago," comments Ward Silverton, George's son. He came to work for the District in '74 and is now an operator in the Beach Yard control room. Ward is the man that, at the push of a button, can send millions of litres pumping into the water system.

But there's one more generation of Silverton's to mention, Francis Silverton, Ward's grandfather. He was the first Superintendent of the Water District, appointed in 1926.

Three generations of Silvertons — in almost 70 years, one family has been a part of some remarkable changes. Grandfather Francis organized all that pick 'n shovel, muletrain dam building in the 20s. Son George, and his brother Tim, hauled the pipe that was laid in the 40s and the 50s. And now grandson Ward sits in a room, punching computer keys, operating a system that his grandfather, father, and uncle put into the ground in the first place. In a way, it's almost a family business.

PRIDE ■ *One of the District's Ford five-tonners, delivering pipe in 1953. Commented one ex-driver, "I wasn't very proud of 'em." They had poorly sprung seats*

A NEW IDEA

In the 50s and 60s, North Americans went on an automotive buying binge that made history and made people mobile. With a V-8 purring beneath the hood, "city limits" was a meaningless phrase. In B.C., by the mid 60s, it was clear that municipalities were not the best vehicle to supply all services. A new idea was needed and it was dubbed, "regional district".

"Joe? He's over there." Len Lewandosky points to a row of huge pipes sitting in a Pitt Meadows field. A face, engulfed in a respirator, pops up from a massive watermain. A Batman-like emblem is splashed across the front of the man's hardhat. "Tar Boss," it says.

This is Joe Simon. He's worked on pipe for the GVRD since July, 1967. He's been with the District right from the organization's official start.

"I just applied. My uncle, he was a carpenter with the Water District. Dave Cividin."

In fact, it was Joe's Uncle Dave that helped a young Giuseppe Simon emigrate to Canada from northern Italy in 1965.

"I had nobody there any more and my uncle called me over — just to give me a start," Joe explains. "Oh, Dave. He was well liked. Everybody knew Dave."

Even in '67, laying water pipe was a highly refined art; the job hasn't changed much. But the people have.

"Maybe in the old days, it was a little bit better. We all knew each other. Now, there's a lot more people around."

One of them, John Roud, wanders over.

"Joe! You a cover girl now or what?"

The camaraderie of the crew is tangible, real. These guys do a hard, difficult job together and there's something about hard, dirty, difficult jobs that makes people look out for each other, makes them less pretentious, closer.

Joe shrugs, "We're always kidding around. Gotta have some fun."

The kidding, the jokes, the tar — these guys have a working relationship you won't find in an office job.

John throws in, "Yeh. Joe reads a lot. Always lending me stuff to read."

A lot of what the GVRD has accomplished over the years has involved working at the bottom of a ditch, ankle deep in water. A lot of hard, difficult jobs have had to be done and it's people like Joe, John, and Len who get them done. They may not realize it, their faces six inches from a billowing tar pot, but they've got something a lot of people don't have, something special.

PARENTS ■ *Dan Campbell (right), Minister of Municipal Affairs in the early 60s, and his deputy minister, J. Everett Brown, could rightly be called the parents of the regional district idea. Like most parents, they found their hands full of problems, notably the twin crises of a growing population suddenly armed with cars. People were now living regionally, not locally. Campbell knew this. He called municipal boundaries "obsolete." As he put it, "Community interest in such things as hospitals, regional parks, and environmental management was clearly much broader." He was right.*

The idea of single purpose special districts, often called Improvement Districts, had been proven in B.C. since the turn of the century. Metropolitan areas frequently had unified water and sanitation systems. Indeed, the Water District and Sewerage District had operated together effectively in Greater Vancouver since 1926.

But Campbell wanted to build a new structure that could act across a broad range of regional issues. He wanted a structure that wouldn't replace municipalities but would allow them to act together, reflecting a "regional community of interest." He envisioned an organization that would achieve a higher level of service with a greater economy of scale. He was right about that, too.

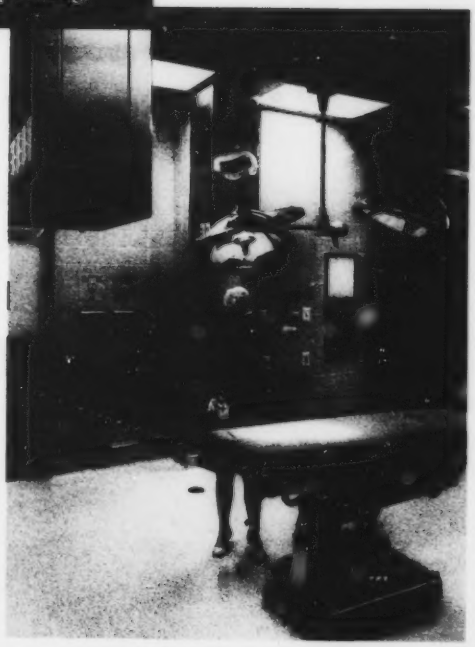
THE SEWER DECADE ■ *The second treatment plant recommended by the Rawn Report, Iona Island (shown under construction left), opened in 1963. At the time it created a flurry of protest from Richmond residents who wanted Vancouver to keep its own sewage. But the tides were against it — Iona was the best location to get a good tidal flushing action.*

To get the sewage to Iona Island, they needed to build major connectors. One such was the Highbury Tunnel which in some places had to be tunnelled 300 feet beneath the surface. A firm of experts, Northern Construction, was hired to do the tough, dangerous job. To speed the project, they started the tunnel at north and south ends simultaneously. Shortly before 8pm, July 26, 1962, the two tunnels met deep underground. The two crews of tunnellers (below left) were ecstatic. One of the shift bosses, helped by his counterpart, is seen here crawling through from the pilot tunnel he'd just dug.

THE FIRST PLANNERS ■ *One long-standing regional issue was land use. Early on, in 1949, the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board was established to bring some order to the post-war boom. But it wasn't until 1963 that the Board started refining the idea of regional planning priorities through a process they called "Chance & Challenge." It was the first time local planners talked of a vision: "a series of cities in a sea of green." It wouldn't be the last, becoming a theme of all major planning reports since. In 1966, the Official Regional Plan formalized some of these ideas.*

GENESIS

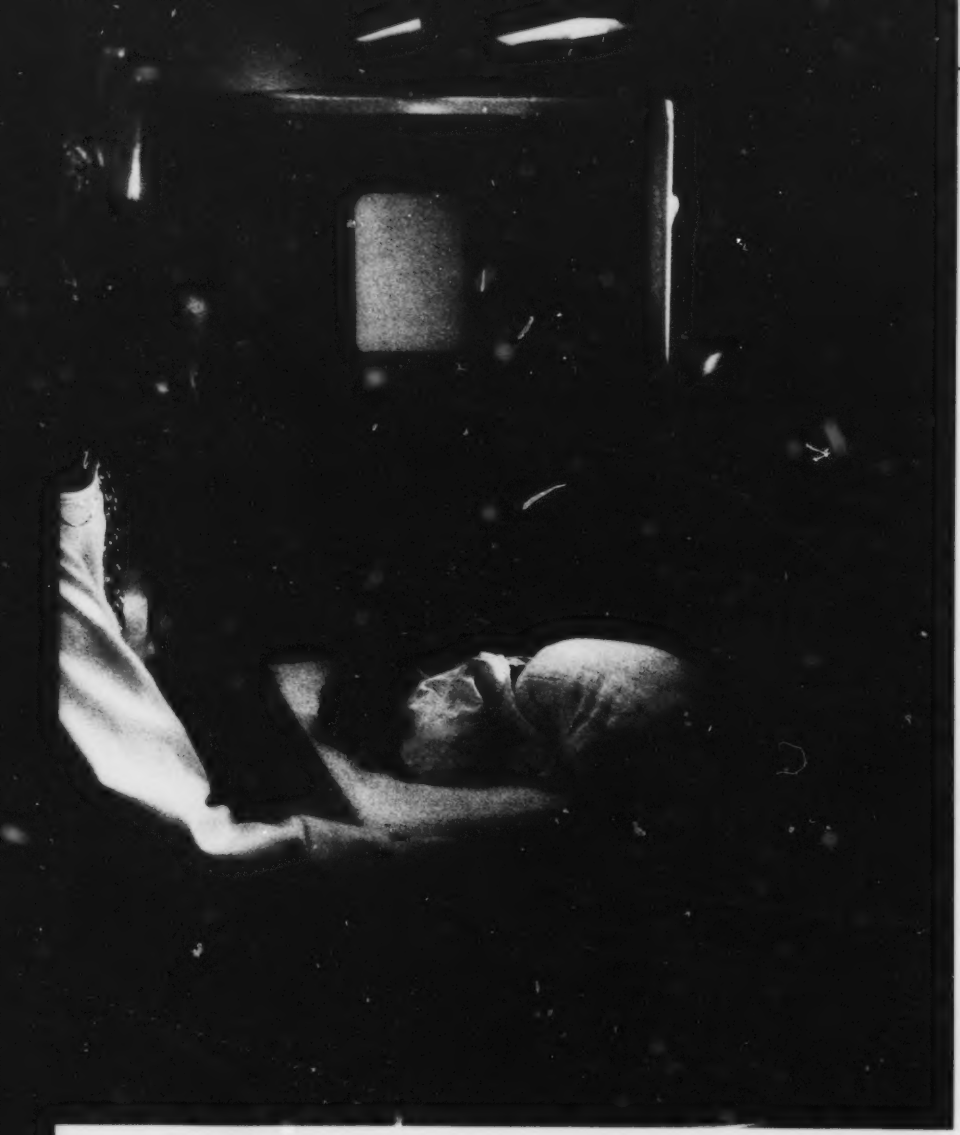
On July 12th, 1967, the GVRD held its first meeting. It was one of 29 such regional districts throughout B.C., formed by legislation passed in 1965. While the regional districts had been conceived to deal with a broad spectrum of issues, for several years the GVRD only had one function — hospitals and capital planning.



A GROWING NEED ■ *Before 1967, local hospitals had been run largely independently by civic authorities and non-profit societies, each responsible for financing and planning their own development. But now there was a regional body that would aid in funding. The change presaged a decade of rapid and aggressive construction. In the first year of operation, that added up to a $51 million financing package, even more than Rawn's massive $45 million upgrade of the sewer system.*

In 1912, in this operating theatre at Vancouver General Hospital (above), the idea of open-heart surgery was mere science fiction. 61 years later, in 1973, VGH would open an operating theatre devoted to cardiac surgery (right). Clearly, population pressure was only one reason for the costly expansion in regional hospitals. Remarkable medical advances have also fuelled construction and equipment expenditures that over the last 25 years have amounted to $600 million — over half a billion dollars.

MORE PEOPLE, MORE SEWAGE ■ *In 10 years, Rawn's upgrade of the sewer system was outstripped by population growth. In the late 60s, an $80 million upgrade, including two new treatment plants, was planned. Bill Smith (above) can be seen double checking the rebar on the plant's control building floor during construction. They hit the button on the Lulu Island plant in 1973. In fact, Burnaby Alderman Warren Clark was the man who hit the button. He was watched by (L to R) Ron Andrews, Mayor of North Vancouver District, GVRD's Doug MacKay, and Henry Anderson, then Mayor of Richmond.*



Christina Silva-Pimentel is 12-hours old. She's taking a morning snooze, little toes curled up, mindful of her parents' gentle touch, unfazed by a roomful of strangers. Happily, the first 12 hours of Christina's life have been uneventful, due in part to some of those strangers.

Jetty Soolsma, Head Nurse in Labour and Delivery, and her staff at Burnaby General, have been largely responsible. The quality of obstetric care at the hospital is remarkable. Here, the caesarean birth rate is a mere 11%, far less than the regional average of over 20%.

But Lillian Bayne has played a role, too. Since 1989, she's been a Health Services Planner with the Greater Vancouver Regional Hospital District, specializing in acute care. Her job, on the face of it a maze of policy, funding formulae, priorities, bed plans, and committees, is really about the first 12 hours of Christina's life.

"Talking to people like Jetty — I just have so much respect for her as a caregiver. What she's done with a less than ideal physical plant is to create an environment that people want to be a part of," she explains, driving back to the office.

Improving those physical conditions, maintaining the quality of care, and determining how to pay for it are the fundamental issues in health care planning today.

Historically, hospitals acted independently. They were built to serve local populations. But people have ceased to live locally; we are now regional dwellers. Indeed, in this region you can drive through a continuous urban landscape without the knowledge you've just driven through five municipalities, each with its own fully contained hospital. Over the years, this has cost money. Big money.

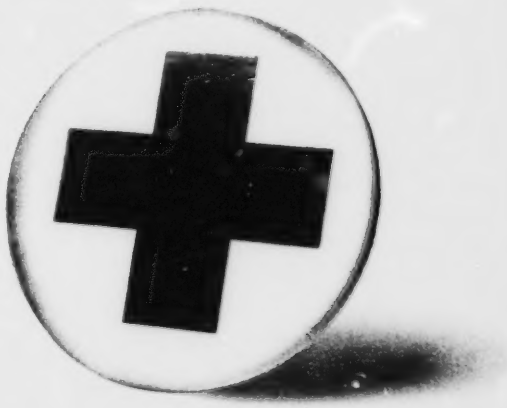
Lillian picks up the story: "The cost to taxpayers for construction was increasing dramatically."

The result has been an historical shift in the Hospital District's role. She explains, "We're becoming a planning agency. We now have the authority from the Ministry of Health to do the planning for our region."

That shift is likely to make Lillian's life as wonderfully problematic as Christina's is blessedly uneventful thus far.

"It's difficult to plan regionally," she concedes as the car pulls up to the curb, "to be realistic and to effect some change. But planning is a process; it's not an outcome or an output. It's a process of making people *think*, working to *understand* what's going on, helping us to see what the future can hold."

She's had an effect on the first 12 hours of Christina's life. With the task ahead, Lillian will likely have an effect on the rest of it, too.



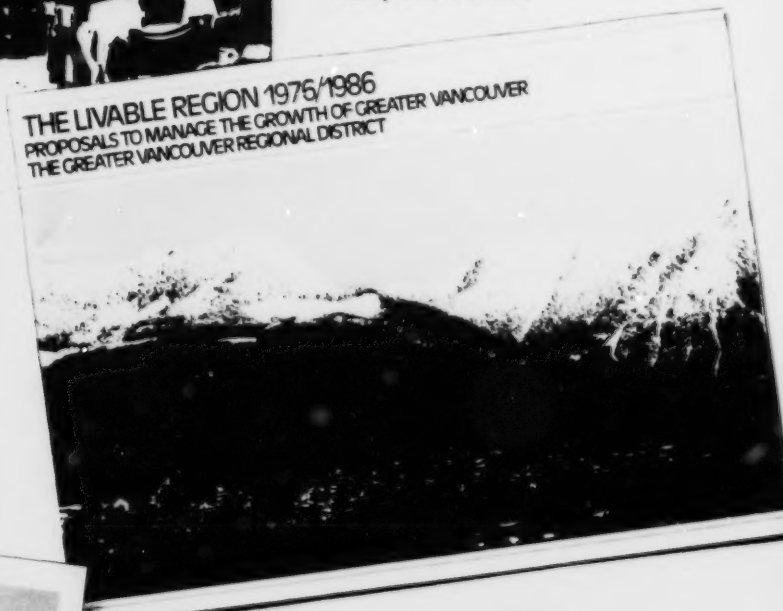
INVOLVEMENT

During the early 70s, a young GVRD started to mature. In 1971, new responsibilities were added: water, sewer, parks, public housing, air pollution. A new organizational style started to appear, too. Where previously experts like Lea and Rawn had been flown in to solve the problems, now the public were being asked for their opinion as well. Consultation was the new agenda, the new maturity.

PROJECT ALPHA ■ *In 1969, the old Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board was disbanded and the GVRD given the job of regional planning. In those days, the consultation process was somewhat new and went under mysterious names like Project Alpha and "IIPS" — the Inter-Institutional Policy Simulator. But the organization understood, perhaps because it was governed by municipal politicians, there can be no leadership unless people are willing to follow.*

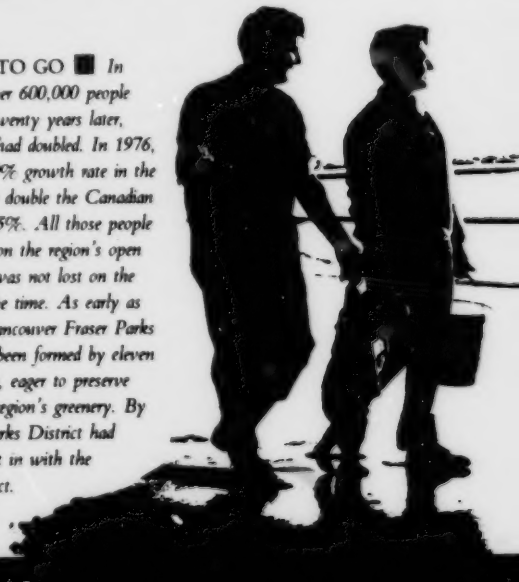
LIVING HERE

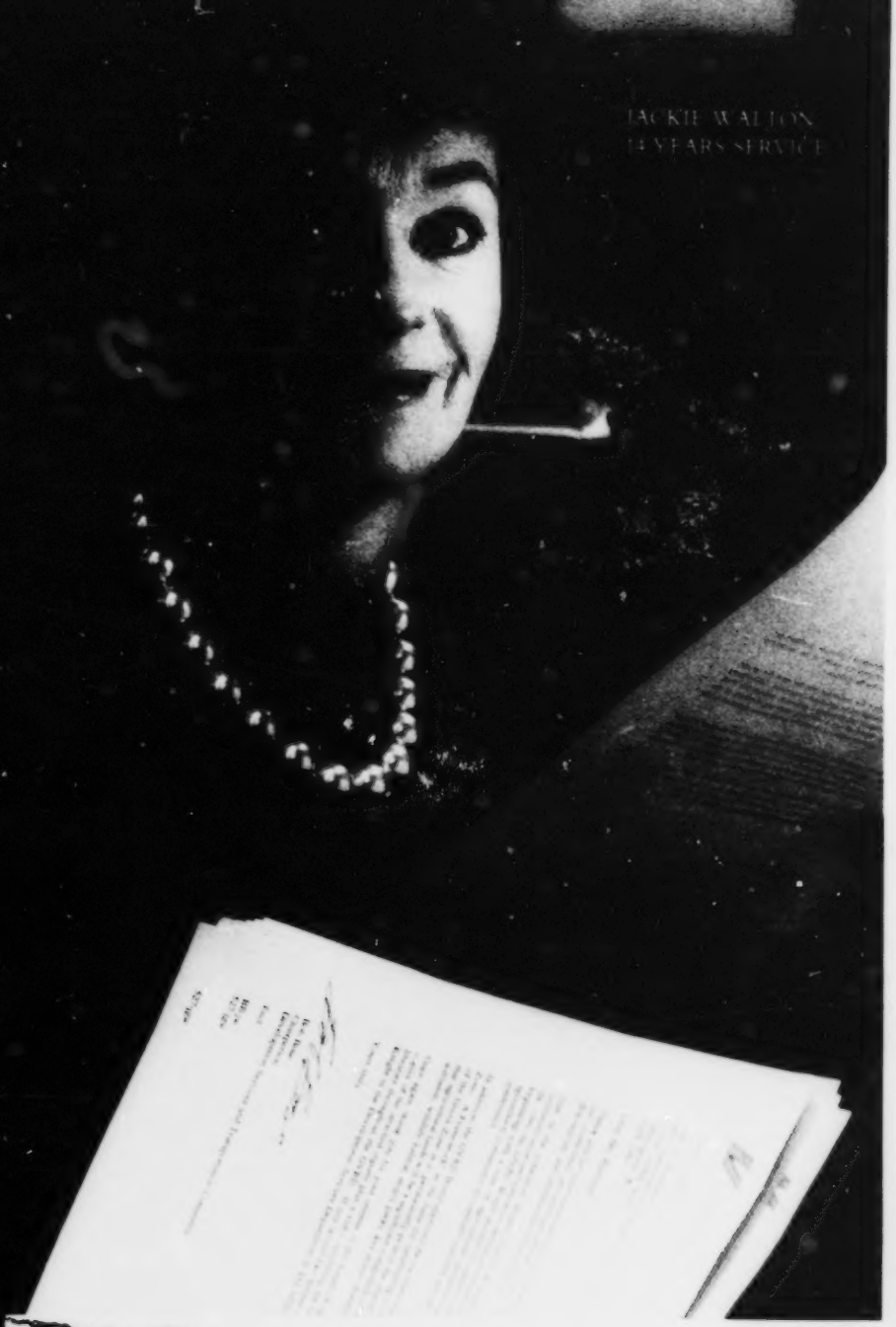
■ *The first major test of consultation was a planning document called, "The Livable Region Program." Between 1971 and 1974, the public added to the concepts that had been suggested a decade earlier in the Chance & Challenge document: shared growth, defined green spaces, affordable housing, easier transportation. Unlike 1966's Official Regional Plan, the Livable Region Program was not a legally binding document. The Livable Region approach was also not focused solely on land use. Jobs, housing, pollution, transit, and other livability issues were raised.*


THE LIVABLE REGION 1976/1986
PROPOSALS TO MANAGE THE GROWTH OF GREATER VANCOUVER
THE GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

ONE MORE PLANT ■ *Annacis Island (below) was the fourth and last wastewater treatment plant built in the region. Ironically, it's the first slated to be upgraded to secondary treatment, an expensive process demanded by tougher provincial laws and by the public.*

A PLACE TO GO ■ *In 1956, just over 600,000 people lived here. Twenty years later, that number had doubled. In 1976, we had a 2.9% growth rate in the region, nearly double the Canadian average of 1.5%. All those people put pressure on the region's open space. This was not lost on the thinkers of the time. As early as 1967, the Vancouver Fraser Parks District had been formed by eleven municipalities, eager to preserve some of the region's greenery. By 1971, the Parks District had thrown its lot in with the regional district.*





Once, the GVRD was a very different type of operation.

"We used to have barbecues in the back lane during lunch break. Pull out the hibachi, right behind the garbage bins, light it up!"

Jackie Walton laughs, remembering 1978 when she first started working at the planning department, the parent to today's Development Services. Back then, the GVRD was housed in several buildings. One of them, 2034 West 12th in Vancouver, was an old, renovated foundry that hosted the planning department and its barbecues.

Today, Jackie can't whip out the hibachi for a quick lunch time fry-up on the 6th floor. The organization has changed its style but the issues the department worked on in '78 still seem to confront the region today. As a Clerk Steno III, she's witnessed first hand forerunner programs like the Open Space Conservancy, compact housing, the Official Regional Plan, the fight to maintain the Agricultural Land Reserve.

Now, those programs have names like the Green Zone, livable region, shared growth. The ideas have come full circle, interestingly enough as the result of the 'Creating Our Future' public consultation process.

Outlines Jackie, "We had a lot of public meetings and conferences to get input from the general public, what do *they* want." The result was 54 recommendations that now form the spine of the GVRD's long range plan.

But as a long-time resident of the Lower Mainland, Jackie feels the impact in more ways than paperwork and reports. She's lived the changes first hand.

"The area we live in, there was a lot of greenspace. It was quite a wilderness area and it has just all disappeared now. In just a matter of a few years, it's all housing...where are all the trees and bushes we used to have? It's all gone."

"That's what the Green Zone is for," she comments, "to protect these areas. To put land aside to be preserved that can't be touched."

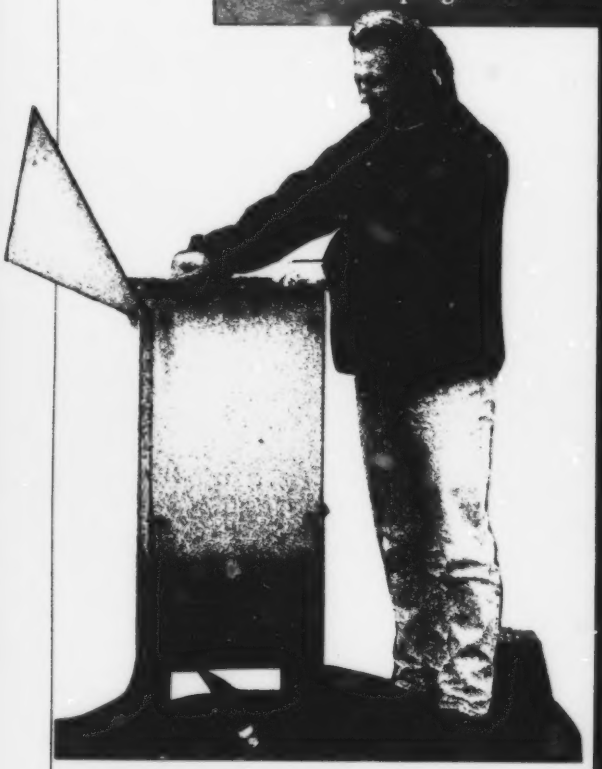
The Green Zone is Jackie's passion, perhaps because she's watched the march of time steal away the green in her neighbourhood. Judging by the public's input into GVRD policy since 1975, she's not the only one.

"I'm concerned about the disappearance of green spaces, wildlife habitat, agricultural land...it's scary."

PALS ■ *In 1973, watershed guard Bob Badgley took to feeding several wild deer during the winter. One of them — Bob named her Queenie — came to trust him so much, she'd take food from his hand.*

PROBLEMS

By the 70s, lakes had started to die. Wildfowl were being poisoned by DDT. And we slowly began to realize Mother Earth was just a barrel with a stopped up bung — what we put into it, doesn't go away. While Rachel Carson was busy writing *Silent Spring*, we were becoming aware of our own silent spring.



SMOKE INSPECTORS ■ *That's what the City of Vancouver's first air pollution control officers were called back in 1949. By 1959, Vancouver was contracting their services to several other municipalities. When the GVRD was given responsibility for regional air pollution control in 1971, receiving Provincial air pollution control powers in 1972, the "Smoke Inspectors" became GVRD employees. They joined the first regional air quality unit, which moved rapidly to begin a program of air quality monitoring (above).*

Provincial powers to regulate industry were transferred to the GVRD and a bylaw added in 1973 to control boilers and apartment incinerators. That bylaw halted new incinerator construction and closed or upgraded hundreds of others. Sixteen years later, a new GVRD bylaw finally ended the operation of all such incinerators.

NEW TREES ■ *Man-made reforestation in the watersheds began in earnest in the 1960s. By 1973, the GVRD's Kel Blakeney and then Burnaby Alderman Warren Clark (right) were able to plant the one millionth tree. Today, more than three million trees have been planted.*

Looking down on the plant, a plume of steam rises from the cooling stacks. There's a faint odor in the air.

"We took a giant leap, I think it was '88. We went from 1,500 complaints a year to over 2,000 — just like that," recalls Don Miller, a pollution control officer.

"Everybody was just so much more aware that we existed for one thing, and people are much less tolerant of intrusions into their environmental space. They pick up the phone and complain."

Don has witnessed a dramatic shift since he joined the department in 1973. The technologies, the policies, the expectations, and the costs have all altered considerably since he was a young, graduate technologist.

Back then, the department had six control officers to enforce air quality regulations. When Don moved into one of those positions in 1981, the department still had six officers. By 1991, it had grown to 14 officers, enforcing both air quality and sewer-use regulations. They were needed to deal with the increasing public concern for the environment, a rising demand for a cleaner region.

The technology of pollution control has changed radically, too.

"The first computer arrived in '79. I remember carrying it into our old building. I think it must have weighed 800lbs!"

Today, that piece of equipment would pale in comparison to the system the department now has.

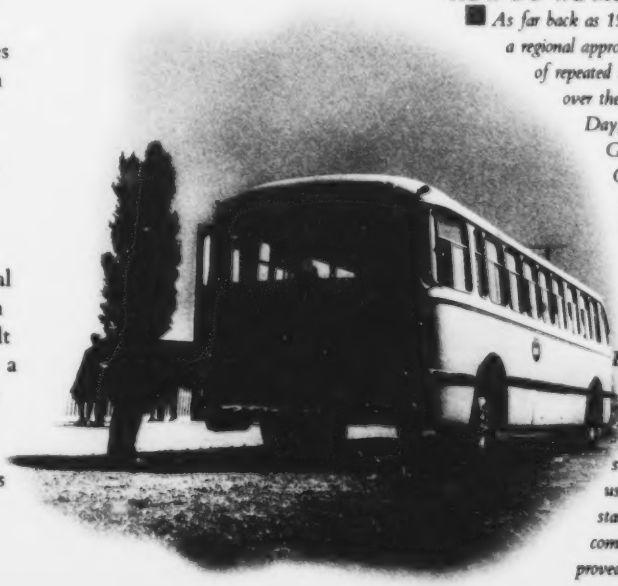
But the fundamental change from the early days is one of policy.

Explains Don, "Previously, the department was almost entirely complaint driven." Now, with the development of the Air Quality Management Plan, the atmosphere is to be engineered, not simply accepted. Bylaws are being formulated that will actually place an economic cost on pollution. Says Don, "In the old days, our permits were free and the use of the airshed was free."

But no longer. Polluter-pay has become one of the key historical changes over the previous 25 years. Now, industry has to pay for polluting the atmosphere and so does the individual. As Don points out, the department has been "working for years to control automobile exhaust emissions because they are a hefty chunk of the total loading that goes on in the airshed." The result of these efforts is now a provincial government program called AirCare. This will force regional residents to maintain the pollution control equipment on their vehicles.

SAY CHEESE ■ *These kids live in a special place and it isn't because of the playground and the tall trees. It's because they live in Meridian Village, special because it was the first GVRD affordable housing project opened in 1976, in Port Coquitlam.*

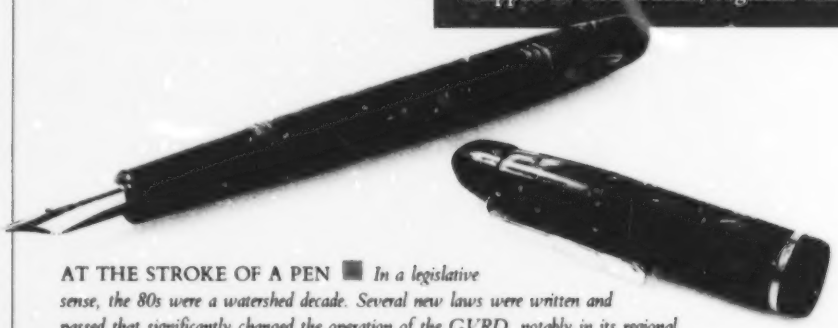
When a population boom hits a region, you first see it in the cost of housing. In 1971, some families were being priced out of decent housing, and the GVRD was told to do something about it. What they did was develop a public housing program. The blueprint called for 3,000 units but the mandate simply said "assist" and "co-ordinate". After three years of little progress, in 1974 the GVRD decided to go into the development business, creating a development and management company called the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation. In partnership with senior levels of government and local municipalities, it would become adept at building affordable housing. It would take, however, 15 years to reach the program's 3,000 unit target. Perhaps fittingly, this year we started our 47th development, Alderwood Place, bringing the total to 3,204 units, housing over 10,000 people.



HOW DO WE MOVE ALL THESE PEOPLE? ■ *As far back as 1971, the Kelly Report recommended a regional approach to mass transit. After years of repeated initiatives, BC Hydro handed over their bus system on April Fool's Day, 1980, to a committee of three: GVRD, Metropolitan Transit Operating Company (MTOC), and Urban Transit Authority (UTA). After that, a lot happened very quickly. 250 new buses and trolleys were ordered to replace, in some cases, 1940s vintage trolleys and buses (left). Bus lanes were added to some stretches of highway. To boost ridership, FareCard bus passes were introduced — within six months, 30% of riders were using them. But the April Fool's start date foreshadowed things to come. The three-way responsibility proved difficult and contentious.*

CONFLICT

The 80s broke like a wave upon the organization. It was to be a decade of challenges, opportunity, and conflict. Against a background of an overheated economic boom, thousands of new residents each month, and interest rates of 21%, employee-management talks broke down, resulting in a three month strike. Then, the GVRD was stripped of two crucial, regional functions.



AT THE STROKE OF A PEN ■ *In a legislative sense, the 80s were a watershed decade. Several new laws were written and passed that significantly changed the operation of the GVRD, notably in its regional land-use planning function.*

As early as 1949, planning had made its way onto the political agenda with the establishment of a Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board. The Board was an attempt by the provincial government of the day to defuse the contentious issue of where to put factories and homes, people and farms. Further attempts to solve this thorny problem followed at regular intervals: 1966's Official Regional Plan; 1973's Agricultural Land Reserve; 1975's Livable Region Strategy; 1980's Official Regional Plan Update. Finally in 1983, the wheel turned full circle.

The provincial government decided to abolish planning on a regional basis, essentially returning to the situation as it existed prior to 1949. The government abolished the planning function of all regional districts throughout British Columbia. In so doing, the government effectively abolished the GVRD's planning department, returning the thankless task of planning to the Lower Mainland's municipalities. In short order, however, the GVRD municipalities voted to replace the former Planning Department with a Development Services Department. This group would aid municipal planners with data, analysis, and advice.

THE LETTER ■ *In January, 1983, a letter arrived in the morning post. It was from the provincial government of the day and it heralded a major change in the management of the region's transit system. As of April 1st, transit was to be planned, managed and operated by a single organization, B.C. Transit.*

The previous three-party management group of the GVRD, the MTOC, and the UTA had proved fruitful. Great strides had been made during the group's brief three years of operation. New buses, new routes, a handyDART system for the physically disabled, bus lanes — these and other major improvements had been introduced. But the problems inherent with having three decision makers had also proved difficult, particularly over choosing the form of regional rapid transit. The government acted, ending the three-party system and introducing one management authority. Ironically, a year earlier, the GVRD had come to the same conclusion, urging consolidation under one authority, pointing out that the GVRD's unique expertise in regional transportation and land use planning made it the best candidate.

OUR HERITAGE ■ *During the late 70s and especially the 80s, regional parks developed rapidly, both in number and scope. In addition to preserving greenspace, cultural heritage had become a park goal. Heritage buildings started to appear in some of the parks, particularly Deas Island. In the dead of the night, large, decrepit buildings were seen driving down the road to an appointment with the restorationist's hammer. Harry Burr's house, for instance, was rescued from a nest of brambles and neglect in 1982. When Harry built his Queen Anne style house in 1906 (shown in this picture shortly after he finished it), he called it, rather eccentrically, "Burrvilla." But then Harry was somewhat of an eccentric. A wealthy farmer, he kept an aviary, house, and hosted a good many of Delta's weddings and tea parties in the early part of this century.*

We're driving through an industrial park in metro Vancouver, Ron Wood at the wheel of a Parks pick-up. It's a relief to realize that in two minutes we'll drive through the gates of a park, a remarkable oasis of nature in a sea of precast concrete warehouses.

Ron, too, was seduced by a similar feeling years ago. In 1979, while studying for a commerce degree at Simon Fraser, he started with GVRD Parks as a summer worker. When the opportunity came for a full time posting, he jumped at it.

"I couldn't see myself going to school for another seven years, not when I had the opportunity to work in something like this." He gestures towards the alder trees now flashing by the window.

Many thousands of Lower Mainlanders have been touched by the same experience. Now, regional parks attract more than 4 million visitors, quite a change from the early days.

"I've seen a lot of changes, " Ron says. "I think I was the fourth full time person in parks' field staff. I think there's 30 some odd now. Since 1986 onwards, parks-use has just been growing like crazy. The parks that I can remember being brought on line, since I've been here, are Lynn Headwaters, Crippen, Minnekhada, the Widgeon Marsh, Pacific Spirit, Iona, Boundary Bay, Deas Island, Matsqui, Kanaka, Tynehead — and that's just in 12, 13 years."

But it isn't just the number of parks that has changed. There's been considerable development of park properties, turning them into recreational magnets.

He adds with a smile, "At Belcarra, we used to close the washrooms down simply because the water used to come in at high tide and flood them during the winter. That's how things used to be in Parks, and that was only ten years ago."

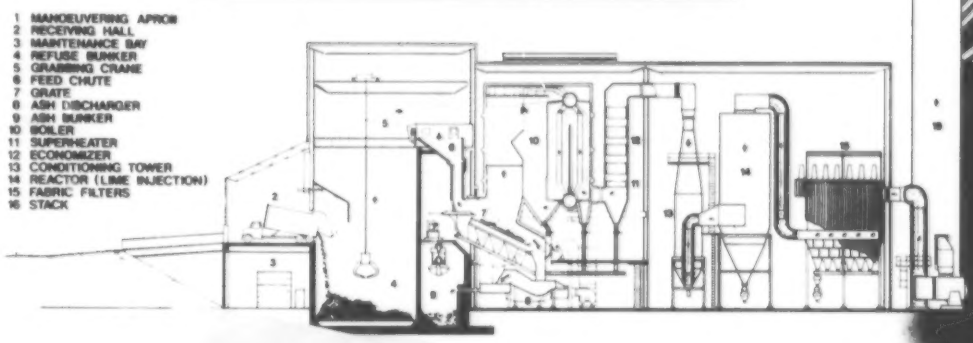
As Ron puts it, "It's hard to have seasonal washrooms when you have full time visitors. They're coming in *all* the time, now."

In Ron's working life, the parks system has gone from 4 full time field staff to 30, from 5 parks to 17, in an effort to meet rising demand. This demand has created rising costs. Indeed, Widgeon Marsh is to be run at least initially on a cost-recovery basis.

"People will likely go in with one of our interpretative specialists and they'll have to pay a fee for the cost of the program. We aren't out to make a profit but we at least have to cover our costs."

NEW ATTITUDES

150,000 people moved into this region in the last half of the 80s, enough to populate a good size city. They brought with them cars, pollution, housing needs, sewage. But they were also part of a new attitude, an awareness that the region's livability was declining and that new solutions needed to be found.



2,000,000 TONNES OF GARBAGE ■ *The engineer's phrase is 'solid waste' but by any other name, it's a problem. The solution developed in 1981 was landfilling, incineration, resource recovery, and recycling. The incinerator (upper left), was opened in 1988. Canada's first resource recovery plant (above) followed in 1989. That year, a new landfill in Cache Creek was opened. And an earlier glass/paper recycling program was revised, expanded, and new targets set.*

CREATING OUR FUTURE ■ *Shared growth, rapid transit, greenspace, affordable housing — these plus 66 other recommendations were the public's prescription for a livable region in 1975. When we asked them again in 1990, it was still the public's prescription. Over 4,000 people participated in a public process we called, "Creating our Future." There were 54 recommendations arising from the conferences, public meetings and phone-in shows, recommendations that would form the basis for the GVRD's blueprint for the 90s. For many of the participants environmental health was fundamental to the region's livability.*

MAMU ■ *Although it sounds like a mythical beast, MAMU is actually an acronym for Mobile Air Monitoring Unit. It entered service in 1987 to sniff out hot spots of pollution. By 1987, the number of monitoring stations had expanded dramatically, providing information on the whole region.*

TIMELINE

1981 1982 1982 New

MALCOLM GRAHAM
10 YEARS SERVICE

BRUCE JOHNSON
15 YEARS SERVICE

You immediately notice the dark rings beneath their eyes. Those rings are a badge of office, so to speak, earned from long hours at the bargaining table. Malcolm Graham and Bruce Johnson are both senior negotiators with the labour relations department. Judging by the rings, it's not a sinecure.

"You have to like this job," Bruce comments.

Malcolm adds, "You end up on the edge because the consequences are so great."

Once, the consequences were less severe because municipalities negotiated individual contracts with their local unions, risking small, local disruptions. The result of that approach was a constant spiralling of wage settlements as employees in one municipality hurried to catch up with the wage increases in another. By 1964, the region had the highest wage rates in the country among municipal workers. The municipalities balked.

Explains Bruce, "They started initially, 2 or 3 rounds before '64, by simply hiring a common negotiator, a labour lawyer, Nathan Nemetz. That was formalized into the Municipal Labour Relations Bureau in 1964."

Malcolm picks up the story: "Nemetz went on to become Chief Justice of B.C. His understudy, Graham Leslie, took over in '64 and ran it until 1983. There were only three members of the labour relations function at that time, Vancouver, Burnaby, and New West."

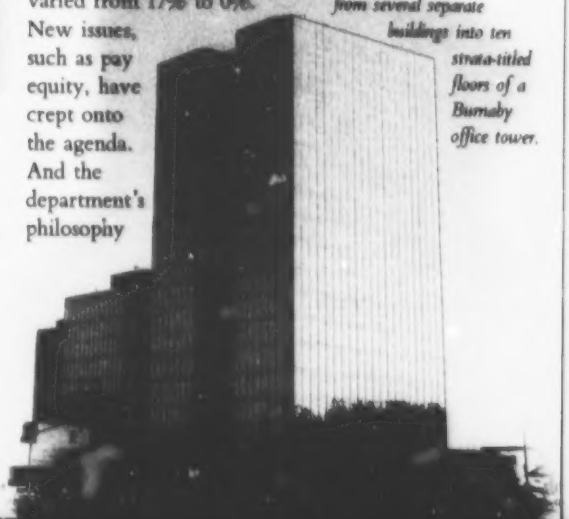
Now, all but 2 of the region's municipalities participate in common negotiations. Labour-management peace has generally been the rule.

The long hours and dark rings remain but much has changed throughout the years. Settlement levels have varied from 17% to 0%. New issues, such as pay equity, have crept onto the agenda. And the department's philosophy has changed, too.

Explains Malcolm, "We see ourselves as being a service organization to the municipalities whereas previously the focus was more on directing and policing them as opposed to assisting and providing a service."

But whether now or 30 years ago, the delicate balancing act, perhaps the root cause of the dark rings, remains constant.

"We have to represent the employer's interests," says Malcolm. "We have to protect the employer's ability to manage. We have to be a guardian to the funds they're prepared to spend on the one hand. On the other side of it, you have to treat the unions and employees with dignity, respect, and fairness...finding that balance...that's the degree to which you're successful with labour relations."



STRATA TITLE ■ *In 1985, the GVRD moved from several separate buildings into ten strata-titled floors of a Burnaby office tower.*

Over 100 years of effort has brought us to where we stand today. Those years have been about one thing — building the good life. A region where water is clean, the oceans aren't hopelessly fouled, where hospitals and parks exist, where you can breathe the air. And the struggle to provide all this isn't over. Everytime our population grows, we're forced to confront the issue again. There's a lesson to be learned from our history. It is, simply: the good life costs, and it's worth it.

When senior lab technician Judy Olson signed up 21 years ago, the lab was in the basement of a building at 2294 West 10th in Vancouver.

"I lived 5 blocks away," she laughs. "I could walk to work in the old days. It was much nicer."

Not only has the building changed, but the scale of work, too.

"We were doing the same thing but on a far smaller scale," she explains. "We only had one water sampler and one beach sampler. There was a microbiologist, myself as technician, and there was a person making up media."

Today, the lab is so populated that it can actually hold its own skiing party at Whistler. The fridge door is decorated with snapshots of a happy band of techs in toques.

Rosanna Yau is one of those skiing techs. She remembers, "When I first started in May, 1985, the GVRD had just moved into the new building in January."

That new, second-floor microbiology lab now has a staff of 16, plus extra help during the summer.

Judy describes how the work has changed since 1971: "Back then it was all done with test tubes. Now, there's a lot more membrane filtration. Now, we're testing for bacteria other than coliform..."

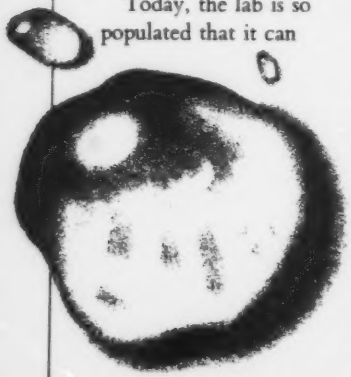
She explains: "Membrane filtration gives an *exact* count whereas with test tubes it's just an estimate. And membrane filtration is faster. If it's negative, you get the results in 24-hours."

Speed seems to be the name of the game in water quality testing these days. Rosanna agrees. "There's always a sense of urgency."

The sheer frequency of testing has increased over the years as well.

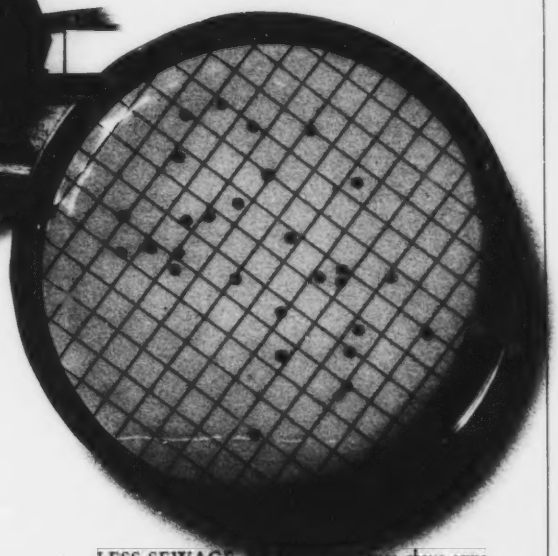
"I'd say we used to do 20, 25 tests for drinking water (a day)," says Judy, casting her mind back. "Today, we do at least 100 tests a day."

The change in the lab perhaps mirrors a changing public attitude. Before the 80s, bottled drinking water was sold, if at all, off the bottom shelf. Now, it consumes half an aisle in most grocery stores. People want more water and better quality.



CLEANER WATER ■ *Turbidity is the engineer's word for what the rest of us rightly describe as brown tinted water. When it comes pouring out of your tap, it's quite a shock. In fact, the brown colour is caused by sediment and though it may be safe to drink, it's not a comfortable experience. The demand for cleaner drinking water was heard loud and clear at public meetings. That's why we've embarked on a water quality upgrade, estimated to cost between $100 to $450 million. Although the plans have not been finalized, engineers are investigating the feasibility of more effective disinfection, filtration plants, upgraded dams, and new transfer mains. These mains will allow the water supply to be switched from one mountain lake to another, reducing the occurrence of sediment from about 25 days a year to as few as 1.*

CAN YOU ENGINEER AIR? ■ *We think so. During the Creating Our Future public consultation process, it became clear you think so, too. That's why we're developing Canada's first regional Air Quality Management Plan. It's a multi-task program designed to improve the air by reducing the regional discharge of sulphur, nitrogen oxides, particulates, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds — by 50% by the end of the decade. The key to this goal is reducing auto emissions. Your car is our single biggest problem. That's why we led the development of the new B.C. government program called "AirCare," aimed specifically at regulating vehicle emissions.*



REDUCE FIRST ■ *The idea of managing waste using community-based recycling programs first gained prominence in North America during the early 70s. In those days, however, the emphasis was on recycling waste; today, the emphasis has switched to reducing waste at its source. Indeed, the GVRD's waste management planning now targets at-source reduction as its first priority, followed by re-use and recycling initiatives. Reducing waste is the most environmentally-sound alternative to current waste disposal methods; it is also the most cost effective. Today, nearly every community in the region has educational programs to promote at-source reduction They also employ curbside recycling, recycling depot programs, or both. The challenge now is to expand these existing facilities and to implement new environmentally responsible and cost effective programs.*

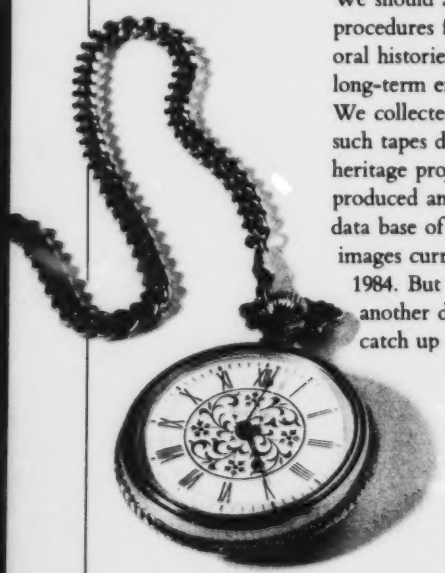
LESS SEWAGE ■ *The bags above came from English Bay in 1987. They were a quality control test, one of several thousand we conducted that year on the receiving waters for the region's treated sewage and on drinking water. At the start, about 20,000 such tests were being conducted each year. By the 80s, that number had risen to 50,000. Today, the lab conducts over 200,000 tests each year. People are more concerned about what's being pumped into the rivers and oceans. These higher expectations, heard so forcefully during Creating Our Future, are being matched by tougher, environmental laws. Both the public and the law demand an improvement which is why we've initiated a $1.03 billion program to introduce secondary treatment of wastewater.*

A FINAL NOTE

We live history one day at a time. But we only call it history if we can remember it years later; what we can't remember or haven't recorded is lost forever. As we enter our 25th year of operation, it's something to think about.

"We lack a formal policy or procedure to preserve our historical resources," explains Frances Christopherson, the GVRD's librarian and an employee since 1971. "We also lack funding, space, human resources, and display facilities. The collections we do have are split up.

"Certainly, historical resources policy is a management issue but staff can help, too. Employees can do all kinds of things. They can write or tape their accounts of notable or interesting happenings. We should also have procedures for taping oral histories from long-term employees. We collected a few such tapes during our heritage project and produced an on-line data base of archival images current to 1984. But we have another decade to catch up on now."



FRANCES CHRISTOPHERSON 21 YEARS SERVICE

SPECIAL THANKS:

THE VANCOUVER ARCHIVES, JUNE THOMPSON/NORTH SHORE MUSEUM & ARCHIVES, PAT CRAWFORD/BC HYDRO INFORMATION CENTRE, HANS KRAUSE, JACK MEEKS, FRANCES CHRISTOPHERSON, AND THE RESEARCHES OF DAN MURRAY & GABY KAHRER.

A LONG RANGE PLAN

Two years ago, the GVRD initiated a public consultation process we called, *Choosing Our Future*. Through public meetings, seminars, survey and conferences, we asked the people of this region how to make the region more livable in the decades to come. Over 4,000 people responded, indicating expectations and aspirations that were later organized into 54 key recommendations, entitled *Creating Our Future*. Those action steps were adopted by the GVRD's Board of Directors on July 25th, 1990. Number 54 was a commitment to, "develop and implement a capital expenditure and debt management plan which provides a framework...to respond to the region's environmental, physical, and social needs, to maintain the fiscal integrity of the region's communities, and to secure equitable cost sharing arrangements with other levels of government."
That plan was formulated in 1991.

In essence, this long range plan calls for $2.3 billion of spending over a seven year period to ensure the region's environmental and physical quality. It encourages people to reduce their consumption and conserve the region's resources. It seeks to implement the necessary expenditures through a cost sharing arrangement between local communities and the Government of B.C.

Among the plan's goals, improved wastewater treatment is a major cost item. We want to build secondary treatment facilities at both Annacis and Lulu Island treatment plants in order to satisfy both legal requirements and environmental prudence. The plan also calls for an improvement in the quality and reliability of the region's drinking water. The plan includes a program to reduce solid waste and improve its disposal. A new program of hospital construction has been scheduled to meet the region's ballooning health care demands. A concentrated effort to reduce air pollution, expand regional parks, and maintain existing regional services has been budgeted. Altogether, it's an ambitious plan with a completion date of 1997.

The long range capital plan is ambitious and costly but it must be measured against improved drinking water quality, cleaner rivers and estuaries, a 50% reduction in solid waste, a 50% reduction in air pollution, adequate regional parks, and better health care facilities.

WATER

Clean water is something we take for granted, so much so that we consume a staggering 382 billion litres of water annually. That's an average consumption of over 600 litres per person per day.

This demand is met by harnessing the water resources of a 585 square kilometre watershed, delivering water through a distribution system involving mountain storage lakes, dams, pumping stations, and 500 kilometres of trunk lines.

A demand for better water.

Ultimately, water is a finite resource that can easily be degraded. Indeed, quality and security of supply are the Water Engineering Department's prime objectives. The Water Quality Improvement Progam, currently in the pre-design stage, will be the focus for future activity over the next few years as the department implements improved disinfection, corrosion control, and anti-turbidity measures. Security of supply will be ensured through a program of new capital works and repairs to existing facilities, such as seismically upgrading the system's major dams.

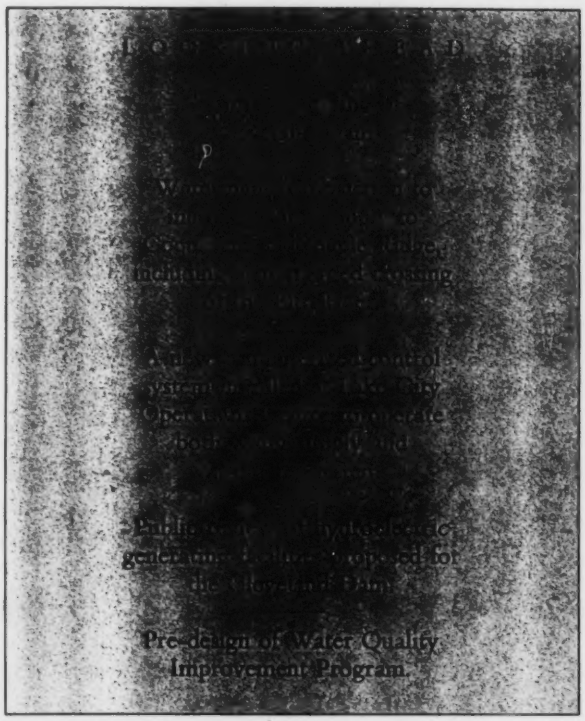
These improvements are being made largely as a result of public input. During the *Creating Our Future* process, the public repeatedly indicated a desire for a secure, high quality water supply. The cost of meeting this expectation is not small. The program over the next several years is estimated to cost over $300 million. By comparison, however, this price is cheap. In many North American cities, the cost of water is far greater than the GVRD's 1991 wholesale rate of 5.5¢ per 1,000 litres. More to the point, a reliable supply of clean water is truly priceless — it is our greatest resource.

Operational improvements.

One operational highlight during 1991 was the opening of a new combined Operations Centre in Burnaby. The Centre includes workshops, stores, and maintenance yards for both the water and sewer departments, the first time both have been under the same roof.

In addition, other operational improvements were made in 1991, including 1,158 metres of watermain laid to increase the Coquitlam system's capacity and 1,615 metres of new watermain to improve Burnaby's water supply. The opening of the Grandview Pumping Station in South Surrey completed Phase 1 of the Langley/Surrey water supply scheme. A $5.5 million refit was started on the Vancouver Heights Pumping Station.

Of significant interest was the public review of the watershed's management.



Pre-design of Water Quality Improvement Program.

SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE

Between storm runoff and human sewage, 350 billion litres of wastewater are collected from municipal sewer systems via 420 kilometres of GVRD trunk lines, interceptor sewers, and 34 pumping stations. This system distributes wastewater flows to five treatment plants. Of these, two large and two small plants provide primary treatment, while one small plant provides secondary treatment.

A new standard of environmental quality.

Recent studies have shown that environmental conditions in the local waters surrounding Greater Vancouver have become worse. Significant improvements must be made to wastewater systems to prevent further degradation and to ensure a higher level of protection for the environment. Public input to the *Creating Our Future* process indicated a great deal of concern for the environment and a high priority for wastewater system improvements.

A new order of cost.

Wastewater improvements do not come cheap. The GVRD's long range capital plan proposes over $1 billion worth of upgrading between now and the end of 1997. Of this amount, the largest expenditure — between $500 - $600 million — will be for upgrading the Annacis and Lulu Island treatment plants to secondary treatment. Over the course of the upgrading program, the cost for wastewater operations will almost triple. This increase will be reflected in the homeowner's tax bill.

Future areas of concern.

The need for secondary treatment is not the system's only challenge. One of the emerging issues is the problem of sewer overflows. Much of the region's older sewer system carries both sanitary and storm wastewater. During heavy rainstorms, these combined sewers cannot carry all of the flow to the region's treatment plants. Under these conditions, mixed sewage and stormwater overflows into Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River. The stormwater component of this overflow is particularly damaging to water quality. It's now known that rainwater runoff is far from clean; it's a very serious source of pollution. The GVRD, in conjunction with its member municipalities, is currently developing an urban stormwater management strategy to correct the problem.

Another emerging issue is sewage sludge. This is a by-product of the sewage treatment process — 70,000 tonnes of it are produced each year. Sewage sludge is a useful resource. A joint GVRD/University of British Columbia study has shown that sludge can increase the fertility of soils and enhance the growth of crops and trees substantially. Work is progressing to develop markets and generate public acceptance for this valuable resource.

LOOKING AHEAD

Environmental risk analysis studies on the impact of effluent discharges.

Additional engineering on secondary treatment for Annacis and Lulu Island treatment plants.

Development of a sludge management program.

Development of a regional strategy for controlling urban stormwater runoff.

AIR QUALITY & SOURCE CONTROL

Managing pollution discharges to the region's air and sewers is a GVRD responsibility. An integrated program of air monitoring stations, pollution control permits, bylaw regulation, enforcement, and control strategies has been developed.

A new mandate for emission reduction.

In 1988, the GVRD began the development of Canada's first regional air quality management. Concurrent with this work, the *Creating Our Future* public consultation process showed that the region's smog problem was clearly uppermost in the minds of many. In response to this public concern, a new standard for environmental protection has been established: a 50% reduction of total emissions of sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides, particulates, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds by the year 2000.

As part of the GVRD's long range plan, new programs are being developed to combat air and water pollution. Companies will be required to install modern equipment to control their discharges. And individuals will be asked to make cleaner transportation choices and to reduce air and water pollution through other personal actions. In the end, we'll all have to share in solving the problems we create.

1991 bylaw enforcement and review.

Throughout 1991, approximately 500 tests were performed, 1,000 plants inspected, and over 1,000 monitoring reports reviewed. GVRD enforcement officers received and investigated about 2,500 complaints. In addition, a bylaw to impose emission controls over a wider variety of sources was drafted and a fee structure for sewer discharge permits came under development.

LOOKING AHEAD

A fee structure for sewer discharge permits.

Completion and public review of Air Quality Management Plan.

Emission inventory update.

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

The GVRD operates an integrated waste management system which handles approximately 1.2 of the 2 million tonnes of municipal solid waste generated in the region. The system includes waste reduction, recycling and energy from waste programs. Waste which cannot realistically be handled by these strategies is landfilled. The remaining .8 million tonnes is handled by the private sector through recycling and landfilling. Currently, over 20% of the region's total waste is recycled, about 10% is incinerated, and the remaining 70% is landfilled.

Waste reduction is the key.

Unless the rate of waste generation can be reduced, it's estimated that the region will be producing 2.6 million tonnes of waste annually by the year 2000, a mere eight years away. This volume of waste will strain the system enormously, particularly with the closure of the Port Mann Landfill in the mid-1990s. In response, the GVRD is reviewing its current Solid Waste Management Plan with a view toward reducing or recycling regional waste by 50% by the year 2000. This will be done in the most environmentally sound and cost effective manner. Indeed, the GVRD's long range capital plan has budgeted a $105 million program to reduce waste through strategies such as regional recycling and composting. Public participation in these programs is key and, judging by the *Creating Our Future* process, public interest is keen. Recycling programs, in particular, were high on the public agenda. The vital step, however, is to turn public desire into individual action. The means? Education.

Education is a priority of the GVRD's long range plan.

The fundamental truth of waste management is that every resident of the region generates one tonne of solid waste each year. Reducing the quantity of waste produced at the source will be the most enduring and cost-effective method of coming to grips with the region's waste management needs. We need to educate the region's residents to adopt a more conserving lifestyle. This would reduce the need to dispose of ever increasing amounts of solid waste.

Toward this end, the GVRD has embarked upon several educational initiatives. These include: a school education program; a backyard composting education program; waste audit assistance to business and industry; and several promotional initiatives to assist municipalities and the general public reduce waste.

LOOKING AHEAD

Complete the review of the existing Solid Waste Management Plan and implement the revised plan.

Develop the Surrey Waste Management Centre as a first class waste handling and recycling facility.

Complete the rehabilitation and recreational development of the Coquitlam Landfill site.

Implement the Ash Management Program to utilize and safely handle the ash from the Burnaby Incinerator.

Increase monitoring and control of private landfills which handle inert solid waste.

HOSPITAL PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

Regional hospital planning and capital financing are responsibilities jointly shared by the GVRD and the B.C. Ministry of Health. During 1991, the Regional District accepted a larger role in health services planning for the region, with the ultimate goal of ensuring an adequate standard of health care.

Attaining this goal is no easy task but an extremely important one. Reliable health care is a key attribute of the region's livability, and one that was repeatedly identified during the *Creating Our Future* consultation process. To aid in the task, a Regional Health Services Advisory Committee has been formed. It includes hospital trustees, health care associations, B.C. Ministry of Health, and senior members of the health care system.

New spending to meet new challenges.

Today, the fastest growing age group in Greater Vancouver is 60 and older. This will place new demands on health care services and facilities for the elderly. It is also clear that the greatest population growth in the region is outside of Vancouver, causing a shift in service needs to the outlying suburban areas of the region.

An ambitious capital program has been launched to meet these needs. In fact, the GVRD's long range plan calls for spending over $800 million in the next seven years — up to $78 on a ratepayer's municipal tax bill each year. Without this level of spending, an adequate level of health care would be difficult to ensure.

A cost-sharing partnership.

Hospital construction and equipment costs are shared between the Province and the GVRD on a 60/40 basis. In 1991, the two approved projects totalling $60 million.

In addition to construction and planning, the Department also co-ordinates hospital services such as laundry, parking, as well as operating a computerized bed availability system.

1991 health care improvements.

Construction began on major projects at Vancouver General and Royal Columbian Hospital. A new 225 bed extended care facility in South Vancouver opened at St. Vincent's Langara.

LOOKING AHEAD

$70 million worth of construction activity scheduled at Vancouver General, Royal Columbian, St. Paul's, Surrey Memorial, and Richmond General.

Design of two psychiatric bed projects to supply much needed acute care mental health services.

Acute Care Planning Subcommittee in operation to aid in the allocation of resources and to minimize the duplication of services between hospitals.

HOUSING

Affordable housing, in an area noted for its expensive housing, is an issue for many of the region's residents. Particularly disadvantaged are the so-called working poor whose housing costs exceed 30% of their gross income. For these people, there is little relief since most of the government social housing programs are aimed at core needy income groups. Unfortunately, it's an issue with no easy solution.

Regardless, over the years the GVRD has been able to build many affordable housing projects with the partnership of municipalities, the Provincial Government, and the Government of Canada.

Alderwood Place approved for construction.

We broke ground September 9th, 1991 on our 47th housing project after receiving approval from the B.C. Housing Management Commission. Alderwood Place's 48 units will bring our total of integrated social housing units to 3,204, located throughout 10 municipalities. Over 10,000 people live in this rental accommodation. Total financial worth of the projects is valued at over $250 million.

Most of this housing is for families with children, with particular emphasis on single parent families. Within most projects there are units specifically designed for the physically disabled. One project in Vancouver is devoted entirely to this special needs group. Another project, in Richmond, is exclusively for senior citizens.

About 30% of tenants receive a rent subsidy. The remaining 70% pay rents comparable to low end market rates for similar accommodation.

LOOKING AHEAD

Particular emphasis on developing rental housing to meet a mixed economic cross section of tenants, including those people in the work force whose housing costs exceed 30% of their income.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

It seems that the history of this region has been one of population growth and development, often at an intensity greater than the rest of Canada. But while growth and development are perhaps inevitable, their consequences needn't be negative or unintended. Good planning is required but that requires accurate information and appropriate strategies. These are the products of the GVRD's Development Services Department.

It acts as a resource to the region's municipalities, the private sector, and other agencies. The department compiles data and forecasts on such varied topics as land use, population, economic activity and more. It runs computer models, organizes public forums, prepares regional strategies and policies, and researches various issues.

In 1991, the issue was Green Zone

During the *Creating Our Future* consultative process, people consistently said they wanted the region's green spaces to be protected from urban sprawl. It was time, the public felt, to recognize collectively the value of green spaces in supporting the region's livability, and to act to preserve them for present and future generations. In 1991, we followed up on this public concern by hosting a Green Zone Conference to examine options, identify lands for inclusion in the Green Zone, and to understand the implications of such a zone on urban development. A further, related conference investigated the future of agriculture in Greater Vancouver. Some of the hardest work remains, however, in developing a municipal Green Zone inventory. More to the point, mechanisms for protecting these areas need to be put in place.

LOOKING AHEAD

Livable Region Strategic Plan and Transportation 2021 recommendations for management of growth and transportation.

Proposal for a consensus-based regional land use and transportion planning mandate.

Transfer to GVRD of operational responsibility for transit.

Elimination of GVRD's service responsibilities for electoral areas.

ELECTORAL AREAS

Development Services also administers the region's three electoral areas. These are geographic areas lacking their own municipal administration. Although the GVRD manages local services in these areas, the GVRD Board of Directors' guiding policy is to transfer this responsibility to local authorities through self-government, merger with existing municipalities, or contracts with municipalities.

Encouraging change.

Most of the activity in 1991 centred around developing options for these areas, inviting community input, conducting referenda, and detailing the GVRD's duties after the changes.

LABOUR RELATIONS

GVRD's Labour Relations Department, responsible to the Labour Relations Bureau, provides services to member municipalities, including their related Commissions, Boards, and Associations.

The department negotiates with unions representing approximately 12,000 local government employees, covered by more than 60 collective agreements. It also provides a wide range of other services, including statistical information, advice and counselling on the processing of grievances, arbitrations, and the development and administration of employee classification and pay plans.

Major activities in 1991.

Most of the 60 collective agreements involving municipal employees expired in 1990, requiring extensive negotiations throughout 1991. The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the Vancouver Municipal and Regional Employees' Union (VMREU) were involved. At year end, these negotiations were not concluded, and were continuing into 1992. Agreements with all Police, Firefighter, and B.C. Nurses' Unions will also be up for renegotiation in 1992.

Job evaluation and classification.

432 job classification reviews were processed in 1991. Six appeal hearings were undertaken, and pay equity proposals were developed for discusssion with the trade unions. During 1992/93, a new job evaluation plan will be developed to cover CUPE/VMREU members employed throughout the region.

REGIONAL PARKS

Over 1.6 million people live within the region and yet 4 million visits were made to regional parks in 1991. In short, GVRD parks are popular. Indeed, an ambitious regional park system preserving the area's significant natural, cultural, and recreational features is a key livability feature of the region.

17 parks with 9,400 hectares to enjoy.

The variety of parks is quite remarkable. The system includes a wide diversity of habitats, from quiet stream environments to rugged mountain forests. Wildlife sanctuaries and tidal shorelines attract thousands of visitors; fishing bars and river walks thousands more. Heritage buildings, rolling farmlands, equestrian trails — these and more all contribute to a precious regional character, defined and preserved in a total of 9,400 hectares of beautiful parklands.

The importance of green space.

During the *Creating Our Future* public consultation process, it was made clear that the region's residents value this system of parklands. Access to shoreline and beaches, a regional trail network, and securing additional parkland also emerged as priorities in subsequent park reviews. It's for these reasons that the GVRD's long range capital plan has made provision for capital expenditures to implement the Parks Year 2000 program.

But park acquisition costs money. The capital plan provides some funds but additional revenues will be needed. Over the next year, revenue generators such as park-user fees, a land trust, and other ideas will be explored and presented for public review.

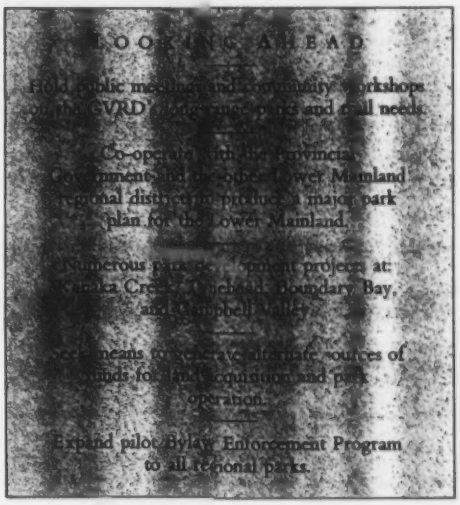
1991 park development and operations.

GO B.C. grants were secured for a number of regional parks — Kanaka Creek ($600,000), Crippen ($141,667), Campbell Valley ($250,000), and Belcarra ($196,000). A carrying capacity study was completed for White Pine Beach at Belcarra. Disabled access to this and several other parks was improved. A floating walkway and loop trail was opened at Belcarra's Sasamat Lake. Pier improvements and shoreline protection were carried out at Belcarra's picnic ground site. Campbell Valley Regional Park received extensive trail upgrading for wheelchair access and equestrians, and a canoe launch was built at the park's McLean Pond. Other regional park highlights included the completion of Phase 1 of the Camosun Bog restoration and a park management plan at Pacific Spirit was completed. A marsh restoration project was started at Iona Beach Regional Park. The Regional Parks Department assumed

responsibility for operating Centennial Beach at Boundary Bay Regional Park.

A new regional park.

1991 must be noted for the decision to add a 17th park to the system. Widgeon Marsh is a unique and ecologically significant area of the region to be jointly purchased with the British Columbia Nature Trust. The property will initially be held as a regional park reserve.

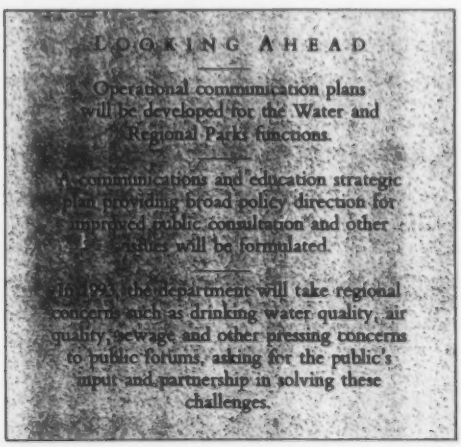

LOOKING AHEAD
Hold public meetings and community workshops on the GVRD's
Co-operate with the Provincial Government and the
plan for the Lower Mainland.
Numerous
and Campbell Valley.
means to
operation.
Expand pilot Bylaw Enforcement Program to all regional parks.

COMMUNICATIONS & EDUCATION

During the *Creating Our Future* public consultation process, a number of public needs were identified. One of them was clearly the "need to know". The region's public wanted to be informed of regional change and choices. They wanted details and action steps on how they could contribute to maintaining a livable region. As a result, in 1991, the GVRD's Board of Directors endorsed *Creating Our Future* Action Step 53 to "develop and implement a comprehensive public communications program." In essence, this required reorganization of the existing Information Services Department's mandate, operational responsibility, and size.

The first year of operation.

The Information Services's Department's task for many years had been to handle general inquiries — over 1,500 per month — from the public and news media regarding GVRD operations. This information role also required the production of news releases, news conferences, and special media events. In addition, the department produced or co-ordinated publications and information resource materials in support of the GVRD's other departments. The department's reogranization expands on these support activities. It also adds a strategic communications planning role in response to the *Creating Our Future* call to develop a comprehensive public communications program. In 1991, communications plans and public involvement strategies were produced for numerous regional issues, including air quality, wastewater, solid waste, growth management and transportation.


LOOKING AHEAD
Operational communication plans will be developed for the Water and Regional Parks functions.
A communications and education strategic plan providing broad policy direction for improved public consultation and other issues will be formulated.
In 1992, the department will take regional concerns such as drinking water quality, air quality, sewage and other pressing concerns to public forums, asking for the public's input and partnership in solving these challenges.

THE ORGANIZATION

The GVRD organization is composed of five separate corporate entities, including several bodies that came into existence long before the establishment of the GVRD itself. The organization has one common administrative staff and, with the exception of the Housing Corporation, one common Board of Directors. The GVRD is largely financed on a fee-for-service basis. Member municipalities are billed on a proportional basis for services provided. Municipalities, in turn, transfer these charges to municipal taxpayers. Typically, this levy for regional services amounts to about 10% of a ratepayer's municipal tax bill.

ELECTIVE PARTICIPATION

Most of the communities within the region are partners in all GVRD functions though a number of the smaller areas do not participate in some. This elective participation applies to all GVRD functions with the exception of hospital planning/financing and development services. In addition, three municipalities from outside the GVRD have joined the organization for specific functions, like water, sewers, and parks. They have a voice only in those functions for which they have joined.

THE RAAC

The Regional Administrative Advisory Committee is composed of municipal managers/administrators and provides advice to the GVRD Board of Directors, the Regional Manager, and is an important municipal forum for managers and administrators to discuss matters of common concern. In the past, the Committee has reported to the Board on the 9-1-1 emergency telephone system, taxi licencing, regional policing, earthquake preparedness, marketing of recyclables, and other intermunicipal issues.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The GVRD is a partnership of 18 municipalities and three electoral districts — 21 communities in all. Depending on their population, each of these communities appoints one or more representatives. Collectively, these representatives form the GVRD's Board of Directors.

Each community is allowed one vote for every 20,000 people within their boundaries, although no one Director can hold more than five votes. As a result, communities with large populations have more than one Director.

Democratic decision-making.

Although the GVRD and its departments are operated by a professional staff of 900 employees, it is the Board of Directors that makes policy decisions for the organization as a whole.

To facilitate this decision making, the Board of Directors appoints committees from amongst its members to oversee individual GVRD functions. For example, the activity of the solid waste department is guided by the 11 members who sit on the Solid Waste Management Committee. This committee in turn is responsible to the Board of Directors as a whole.

FRONT (Left to right):

Dir. Len Traboulay
PORT COQUITLAM

Dir. Derek Corrigan
BURNABY

Dir. Mark Sager
WEST VANCOUVER

Dir. Betty Toporowski
NEW WESTMINSTER

Dir. Doug Sandberg
RICHMOND

Dir. Bruce Yorke
VANCOUVER

Dir. Doug Drummond
BURNABY

Dir. David Driscoll
PORT MOODY
(VICE-CHAIRPERSON)

Dir. Gordon Campbell
VANCOUVER
(CHAIRPERSON)

Dir. Gayle Martin
LANGLEY CITY

Dir. Iva Mann
ELECTORAL AREA A

Dir. William Lewis
ELECTORAL AREA B

Dir. Christine Lamb
MATSQUI

Dir. Bob Bose
SURREY

Dir. Gordon Price
VANCOUVER

BACK (Left to right):

Mr. Ben Marr
REGIONAL MANAGER

Dir. Gordon Prescott
LIONS BAY

Dir. Belle Morse
MAPLE RIDGE

Dir. Ralph Drew
BELCARRA

Dir. George Puil
VANCOUVER

Dir. Greg Halsey-Brandt
RICHMOND

Dir. Bud Tiedeman
PITT MEADOWS

Dir. Bill Fomich
SURREY

Dir. Beth Johnson
DELTA

Dir. John Beales
LANGLEY TOWNSHIP

Dir. Ross Carter
ELECTORAL AREA C

Dir. Pam Blackman
ANMORE

Dir. Murray Dykeman
NORTH VANCOUVER
DISTRICT

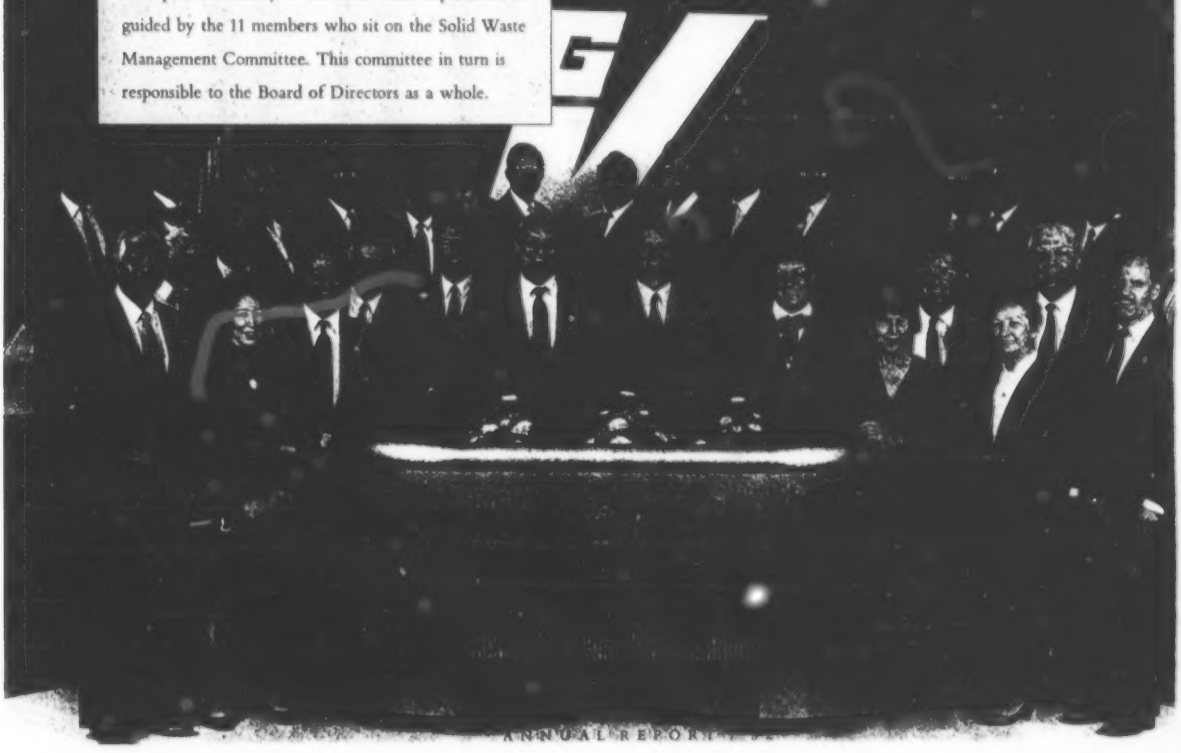
Dir. Jack Loucks
NORTH VANCOUVER CITY

Dir. Gordon Hogg
WHITE ROCK

Dir. Libby Davies
VANCOUVER

MISSING FROM PHOTO:

Dir. Lou Sekora
COQUITLAM



BURNABY
VANCOUVER
NEW WEST
RICHMOND
SURREY
DELTA
TOWNSHIP OF LANGLEY
CITY OF LANGLEY
WHITE ROCK

Municipalities	Municipalities from outside GVRD	Date of Incorporation	Area[1] (sq.km)	Population
CITIES				
Langley City		March 15, 1955	10.2	19,765
New Westminster		July 16, 1860	22.0	43,585
North Vancouver City		May 13, 1907	12.7	38,436
Port Coquitlam		March 7, 1913	31.0	36,773
Port Moody		March 7, 1913	21.0	17,712
Richmond		November 10, 1879	168.1	126,624
Vancouver		April 6, 1886	116.1	471,844
White Rock		April 15, 1957	14.0	16,314
DISTRICTS				
Burnaby		September 22, 1892	106.7	158,858
Coquitlam		July 25, 1891	152.6	84,021
Delta		November 10, 1879	364.3	88,978
Langley Township		April 26, 1873	317.7	66,040
	Maple Ridge**	September 12, 1874	267.1	48,422
	Matsqui**	November 26, 1892	219.0	68,064
North Vancouver District		August 10, 1891	178.2	75,157
	Pitt Meadows**	April 24, 1914	50.4	11,147
Surrey		November 10, 1879	371.4	245,173
West Vancouver		March 15, 1912	98.9	38,783
VILLAGES				
Anmore		December 7, 1987	5.0	741
Belcarra		August 22, 1979	5.6	586
Lions Bay		January 2, 1971	2.9	1,328
ELECTORAL AREAS				
A (University Endowment Lands)		unincorporated	14.0	4,534
B		unincorporated	868.9	260 (est.)
C (Bowen Island)		unincorporated	50.2	2,199 (est.)
Indian Reserves				5,222
Total			3,249.1	1,670,566

1. Area includes land and water 2. GVRD – Greater Vancouver Regional District 3. GVRHD – Greater Vancouver Regional Hospital District
4. GVWD – Greater Vancouver Water District 5. GVS&DD – Greater Vancouver Sewerage & Drainage District

Directors	Voting Strength GVRD[2]	Voting Strength GVRHD[3]	Voting Strength GVWD[4]	Voting Strength GVS & DD[5]
Ald. Gayle Martin	1	1	—	1
Mayor Betty Toporowski	2	2	2	2
Mayor Jack Loucks	2	2	2	2
Mayor Len Traboulay	2	2	2	2
Mayor David Driscoll	1	1	1	1
Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt	3	3	3	3
Ald. Douglas K. Sandberg	3	3	3	3
Mayor Gordon Campbell	5	5	5	5
Ald. George Puil	5	5	5	5
Ald. Libby Davies	4	4	4	4
Ald. Gordon Price	4	4	4	4
Ald. Bruce Yorke	4	4	4	4
Mayor Gordon Hogg	1	1	—	1
Ald. Derek Corrigan	4	4	4	4
Ald. Doug Drummond	4	4	4	4
Mayor Lou Sekora	4	4	4	4
Mayor Beth Johnson	4	4	4	4
Mayor John Beales	3	3	3	3
Mayor Belle Morse	2 (Parks only)	—	2	2
Ald. Christine Lamb	3 (Parks only)	—	—	—
Mayor Murray Dykeman	4	4	4	4
Mayor Bud Tiedeman	—	—	1	1
Mayor Bob Bose	5	5	5	5
Ald. Bill Fomich	5	5	5	5
Mayor Mark Sager	2	2	2	2
Mayor Pamela Blackman	1	1	—	—
Mayor Ralph Drew	1	1	—	—
Mayor Gordon Prescott	1	1	—	—
Dir. Iva Mann	1	1	—	1
Dir. William Lewis	1	1	—	—
Dir. Ross Carter	1	1	—	—
31***	83	78	73	76

** Not members of GVRD *** Includes 3 from non-member municipalities

Dir. Gordon Campbell

Mayors' Committee on Regional Issues

Purpose: Quarterly meeting of the region's mayors and municipal managers to review regional actions, identify problems, propose innovate programs and solutions.

CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Gordon Campbell (Vancouver)

VICE CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor David Driscoll (Port Moody)

Mayor John Beales (Langley Township)
Mayor Pamela Blackman (Anmore)
Mayor Bob Bose (Surrey)
Mayor Bill Copeland (Burnaby)
Mayor Ralph Drew (Belcarra)
Mayor Murray Dykeman (North Vancouver District)
Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt (Richmond)
Mayor Gordon Hogg (White Rock)
Mayor Beth Johnson (Delta)
Mayor Joe Lopushinsky (Langley City)
Mayor Jack Loucks (North Vancouver City)
Mayor Gordon Prescott (Lions Bay)
Mayor Mark Sager (West Vancouver)
Mayor Lou Sekora (Coquitlam)
Mayor Betty Toporowski (New Westminster)
Mayor Len Traboulay (Port Coquitlam)

Dir. David Driscoll

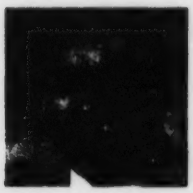
Finance and Government Relations

Purpose: Comprises all committee chairs. Responsible for reviewing budgets, five-year capital plans, administration, co-ordinates activities involving senior governments, monitors implementation of Creating Our Future program.

CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor David Driscoll

VICE CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Gordon Campbell

Mayor John Beales (Electoral Areas)
Mayor Bob Bose (Development Services)
Ald. Doug Drummond (Air Quality)
Ald. Bill Fomich (Solid Waste Management)
Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt (Water)
Mayor Gordon Hogg (Transportation)
Mayor Jack Loucks (Labour Relations)
Mayor Mark Sager (Housing)
Mayor Lou Sekora (Parks)
Mayor Betty Toporowski (Hospitals)



Dir. Lou Sekora

Parks Committee

Purpose: Responsible for. matters relating to the acquisition, development and operation of regional parks.

CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Lou Sekora (Coquitlam)

VICE CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor John Beales (Langley Township)

Commissioner Malcolm Ashford (Vancouver Parks Board)
Mayor Pamela Blackman (Anmore)
Ald. Pat Boname (West Vancouver)
Dir. Ross Carter (Electoral Area C)
Ald. Ann Claggett (Delta)
Ald. Jim Cuthbert (North Vancouver District)
Ald. Stella Jo Dean (North Vancouver City)
Ald. Judy Higginbotham (Surrey)
Ald. Don Hoskins (Belcarra)
Ald. Mal Hughes (New Westminster)
Ald. Ann Hulbert (Port Moody)
Ald. Christine Lamb (Matsqui)
Dir. Bill Lewis (Electoral Area B)
Dir. Iva Mann (Electoral Area A)
Ald. Gayle Martin (Langley City)
Mayor Belle Morse (Maple Ridge)
Ald. Corisande Percival-Smith (Richmond)
Ald. Mike Thompson (Port Coquitlam)
Ald. David Webb (White Rock)
Ald. Pat Wilson (Vancouver)
Ald. Jim Young (Burnaby)

Dir. Jack Loucks

Labour Relations Bureau

Purpose: Responsible for matters relating to municipal labour relations.

CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Jack Loucks (North Vancouver City)

FIRST VICE CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor David Driscoll (Port Moody)

SECOND VICE CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt (Richmond)

Mayor Bob Bose (GVRD)
Ald. John Campbell (Langley Township)
Ald. Yvonne Cocke (New Westminster)
Ald. Derek Corrigan (Burnaby)
Ald. Andy Danyliu (West Vancouver)
Mayor Murray Dykeman (North Vancouver District)
Mayor Gordon Hogg (White Rock)
Ald. Wendy Jeske (Delta)
Mayor Joe Lopushinsky (Langley City)
Ald George Puil (Vancouver)
Ald. Brian Robinson (Coquitlam)
Ald. Ron Talbot (non voting) (Port Coquitlam)

Dir. Bob Bose

Development Services Committee

Purpose: To consider matters relating to co-ordination, research and analytical services in the development of the regional district.

CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Bob Bose (Surrey)

VICE CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Beth Johnson (Delta)

Ald. Derek Corrigan (Burnaby)
Ald. Libby Davies (Vancouver)
Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt (Richmond)
Mayor Gordon Hogg (White Rock)
Ald. Gayle Martin (Langley City)
Mayor Mark Sager (West Vancouver)
Mayor Lou Sekora (Coquitlam)

Dir. Gordon Hogg

Transportation Committee

Purpose: Responsible for matters relating to regional transportation planning, in association with senior governments, advises on airport, port and transportation of dangerous goods issues.

CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Gordon Hogg (White Rock)

VICE CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Len Traboulay (Port Coquitlam)

Ald. Libby Davies (Vancouver)
Ald. Doug Drummond (Burnaby)
Mayor Murray Dykeman (North Vancouver District)
Ald. Bruce McDonald (Delta)
Ald. Gary Robinson (Surrey)
Ald. Doug Sandberg (Richmond)
Mayor Betty Toporowski (New Westminster)

Dir. Greg Halsey-Brandt

Water Committee (Water system/Sewerage system)

Purpose: Responsible for matters relating to region's water supply/quality, watershed management and region's sewerage system.

CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt (Richmond)

VICE CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Murray Dykeman (North Vancouver District)

Ald. Doug Evans (Burnaby)
Mayor Jack Loucks (North Vancouver)
Mayor Mark Sager (West Vancouver)
Ald. Bonnie Schrenk (Surrey)
Mayor Lou Sekora (Coquitlam)
Mayor Bud Tiedeman (Pitt Meadows)
Mayor Betty Toporowski (New Westminster)
Ald. Bruce Yorke (Vancouver)

Dir. Bill Fomich

Solid Waste Management Committee

Purpose: Responsible for matters relating to solid waste disposal, including recycling, hazardous and biomedical wastes.

CHAIRPERSON:
Ald. Bill Fomich (Surrey)

VICE CHAIRPERSON:
Ald. George Puil (Vancouver)

Mayor John Beales (Langley Township)
Ald. Ernie Crist (North Vancouver District)
Ald. Don Griffiths (West Vancouver)
Mayor Beth Johnson (Delta)
Ald. John Keryluk (Port Coquitlam)
Mayor Belle Morse (Maple Ridge)
Ald. Lee Rankin (Burnaby)
Ald. Doug Sandberg (Richmond)
Mayor Bud Tiedeman (Pitt Meadows)

Dir. Betty Toporowski

Hospitals Committee

Purpose: Responsible for matters relating to hospital planning and capital financing.

CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Betty Toporowski (New Westminster)

VICE CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Jack Loucks (North Vancouver City)

Mayor Pamela Blackman (Anmore)
Ald. Diana Hutchinson (West Vancouver)
Ald. Bob McMath (Richmond)
Ald. Harry Rankin (Vancouver)
Ald. Aubrey Searle (Langley Township)
Ald. Judy Villeneuve (Surrey)
Ald. Art Wilkinson (Port Moody)

Dir. John Beales

Electoral Areas Committee

Purpose: To consider matters with respect to the administration and provision of services to the GVRD's three electoral (unincorporated) areas.

CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor John Beales (Langley Township)

VICE CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Ralph Drew (Belcarra)

Dir. Ross Carter (Electoral Area C)
Dir. Bill Lewis (Electoral Area B)
Dir. Iva Mann (Electoral Area A)
Ald. Gordon Price (Vancouver)
Ald. Bonnie Schrenk (Surrey)

Dir. Mark Sager

Housing Corporation

Purpose: Responsible for construction, operation and maintenance of the GVRD's 3,204 rental housing units.

CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Mark Sager (West Vancouver)

VICE CHAIRPERSON:
Mayor Beth Johnson (Delta)

Mayor Bob Bose (Surrey)
Mayor Gordon Campbell (Vancouver)
Ald. Derek Corrigan (Burnaby)
Mayor David Driscoll (Port Moody)

Dir. Doug Drummond

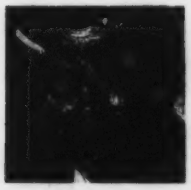
Air Quality Committee

Purpose: Responsible for matters relating to air quality.

CHAIRPERSON:
Ald. Doug Drummond (Burnaby)

VICE CHAIRPERSON:
Ald. Gordon Price (Vancouver)

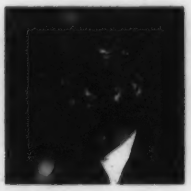
Mayor Murray Dykeman (North Vancouver District)
Ald. Don Hoskins (Belcarra)
Ald. Doug Sandberg (Richmond)



B.E. Marr,
B.Sc., P.Eng
Regional Manager

Commissioner, Water District

Commissioner, Sewerage & Drainage District

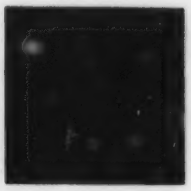


K.D. Cameron,
B.A., M.A., MCIP
Manager, Development Services

- regional development
- transportation planning
- electoral areas administration

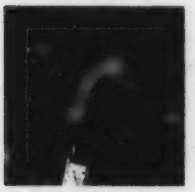
R.A. Hankin,
B.A., M.A.
Manager, Regional Parks

- park land acquisition
- park operations and rentals
- park planning and design
- visitor services



Leonard H. Hayton,
B.A.Sc., P.Eng.
Manager, Solid Waste

- solid waste management
- waste reduction/ recycling
- household hazardous waste management



Judith M. Kirk,
B.A. Econ.
Manager, Communications & Education

- public information
- community relations
- media relations

C. Mark Leffler,
B. Comm.
Manager, Labour Relations

Manager, Personnel

- collective bargaining
- compensation and research
- personnel services
- safety and security

Hew D. McConnell,
B.Sc., P.Eng.
Manager, Sewerage & Drainage

- sewage disposal
- electrical services
- engineering services
- liquid waste planning

J. Barrie Mills,
B.Eng., P.Eng.
Manager, Air Quality and Source Control

- air management planning
- ambient air planning
- air quality control
- sewer use control
- source testing & enforcement

John R. Morse,
B.A.Sc., P.Eng.
Manager, Water & Construction

- water supply
- watershed management
- construction
- quality control

Michael M. Walker,
B.A., M.H.A.
Manager, Hospital Planning

Manager, Housing

Manager, Properties

- hospital planning
- rental housing management
- property services

Manager, Finance and Administration

Position vacant at December 31, 1991

The Finance and Administration Department is responsible for financial planning, treasury, accounting, budgeting, computer systems, purchasing, central services, and the 9-1-1 emergency phone system. The Manager of Finance and Administration also exercises statutory responsibilities as Treasurer to the Board of Directors.

Annual budgets: Provisional departmental budgets are tendered by December 31st of the previous fiscal year. Departmental budgets are reviewed by their respective committees, and the Finance and Government Relations Committee, before submission to the Board for approval by March 31st of the current year. Tax monies requisitioned from member municipalities are due and payable to the GVRD in August of the current fiscal year. The Districts prepare long range plans annually that outline capital expenditures envisioned for a number of years, and identify the impact such programs will have on future annual budgets.

Borrowing: The Districts undertake short-term borrowing for operating and capital purposes by tendering promissory notes for sale on the open market. Long term capital requirements for the GVRD are financed through the Municipal Finance Authority. In 1991, the GVRD financed $40,261,000 through this body, mostly on behalf of its member municipalities. Long term capital borrowing for the Water and Sewerage Districts is arranged through the Province of B.C. as authorized by bylaw adopted by the Board and as approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. In 1991, financing for these two Districts totalled $105,471,000. The Hospital District has its long term capital needs met by financing through the B.C. Regional Hospital Districts Financing Authority. In 1991, debentures were issued to this authority in the amount of $51,839,000. Mortgage renewals for the GVRD's Housing Corporation in the amount of $49,798,000 were tendered on the open market in 1991.

Security: Securities issued by the Regional, Water and Sewerage Districts constitute an indebtedness of the respective member municipalities for which the municipalities are jointly and severally liable. Where the District finances undertakings at the sole cost of a member municipality, the Council of that municipality is required to pay over to GVRD the sums required to discharge its obligations in accordance with the terms of the debentures issued to the District. However, if the sums provided for in the debentures are not sufficient to meet the obligations of the Board, the deficiency shall be a liability of that municipality to the Regional District. Securities issued to the Regional Hospital District Financing Authority are guaranteed by the government of British Columbia.

Provincial government assistance: The province pays grants directly to member municipalities of 75% of debt charges in excess of a 2.5 mills calculation relative to eligible water and sewerage facilities approved prior to July 1st, 1983. The municipalities' share of the Districts' eligible water and sewerage debt charges are included in the calculations. New projects approved after July 1st, 1983 may be eligible for direct grants under the Revenue Sharing Act to the extent funds are available. The British Columbia government also makes Revenue Sharing grants to the GVRD for administrative, planning, and electoral area functions. Grants of 60% of annual debt charges on shareable capital expenditures in the Hospital District is paid by the Provincial Government. It also grants funds towards the cost of administering the Waste Management Act.

Assistance to the Housing Corporation by the Federal Government: The Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, provides mortgage assistance that reduces the interest rate down to as little as 2% on projects built under Section 56.1 of the National Housing Act. The Federal and Provincial governments assist with joint subsidies to provide rental assistance for a number of rental housing units set aside for the physically disabled. The member municipalities do not provide any financial assistance to GVRD's Housing Corporation. It pays full municipal taxes on all its properties.

Auditors' Report to the Members of the Greater Vancouver Regional District

We have audited the capital and loan fund, revenue fund, sinking and debt reserve fund and special funds combining balance sheets of the Greater Vancouver Districts as at December 31, 1991 and the capital and loan fund combining statements of equity in capital assets and changes in financial position, revenue fund combining statements of revenue, expenditure and surplus and the sinking and debt reserve fund combining statements of income and surplus for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Districts' management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the combined and individual financial positions of the Districts as at December 31, 1991 and the combined and individual results of their operations for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles disclosed in note 1 to the financial statements.

Peat Marwick Thorne

Chartered Accountants
Vancouver, Canada
March 17, 1992

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EXHIBIT A – GREATER VANCOUVER DISTRICTS
CAPITAL AND LOAN FUND COMBINING BALANCE SHEETS

DECEMBER 31, 1991, WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1990 (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

	Regional		Hospital		Water		Sewerage and Drainage		Combined	
	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990
Assets										
Property, plant and equipment	$ 52,818	50,806	19,821	19,821	289,997	197,385	340,506	324,963	623,142	592,975
Projects owned during construction and grants to District hospitals capitalized, net (note 1(c))	–	–	474,008	447,933	–	–	–	–	474,008	447,933
Agreements receivable from member municipalities, net of sinking funds (note 2)	198,893	182,281	–	–	10,657	7,905	442	943	209,992	191,129
Short-term investments	–	–	–	794	–	999	–	–	–	1,793
Accounts receivable	354	–	82	47	–	–	258	432	694	479
Debenture funds on deposit with the British Columbia Regional Hospital Districts Financial Authority	–	–	–	14,591	–	–	–	–	–	14,591
Due from special funds	–	–	–	–	–	–	409	409	409	409
Investment in the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation (note 3)	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2
Unamortized debenture issue costs and discount, net	–	–	112	168	313	38	412	154	837	360
	$252,067	233,089	494,023	483,354	220,967	206,327	342,027	326,901	1,309,084	1,249,671
Liabilities, Reserve and Equity in Capital Assets										
Long-term debt (note 5)	$305,107	271,686	640,728	615,919	54,666	30,325	98,342	78,216	1,098,843	996,146
Less sinking funds (note 7)	96,680	85,676	160,571	151,736	7,839	5,034	20,741	24,008	285,831	266,454
Net long-term debt	208,427	186,010	480,157	464,183	46,827	25,291	77,601	54,208	813,012	729,692
Due to members, sinking fund assets in excess of agreements receivable (note 2)	–	–	–	–	–	–	599	2,638	599	2,638
Other capital liabilities:										
Grant reserve fund, net of grants to other agencies of $114,850	120	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	120	–
Promissory notes - short-term (note 8)	2,485	5,974	–	–	64,770	73,609	108,195	130,483	175,450	210,066
Due to Province of British Columbia	–	–	2,557	4,536	–	–	–	–	2,557	4,536
Due to (from) revenue fund	(1,358)	(9)	(1,572)	(990)	(672)	146	4,747	(1,204)	1,145	(2,057)
Accounts payable	76	805	3,093	3,211	716	571	2,091	1,681	5,976	6,268
Contract holdbacks payable	–	–	1,305	5,287	69	893	186	139	1,560	6,319
	209,750	192,780	485,540	476,227	111,710	100,510	193,419	187,945	1,000,419	957,462
Reserve for grants to District hospitals (note 1(k))	–	–	2,279	1,807	–	–	–	–	2,279	1,807
Equity in capital assets, Exhibit E	42,317	40,309	6,204	5,320	109,257	105,817	148,608	138,956	306,386	290,402
Authorized capital expenditures and contingent liabilities (notes 9 and 10)										
	$252,067	233,089	494,023	483,354	220,967	206,327	342,027	326,901	1,309,084	1,249,671

See accompanying notes to combining financial statements.

Jon Jarvis
Assistant Treasurer

EXHIBIT B – GREATER VANCOUVER DISTRICTS
REVENUE FUND COMBINING BALANCE SHEETS

DECEMBER 31, 1991, WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1990 (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

	Regional		Hospital		Water		Sewerage and Drainage		Combined	
	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990
Assets										
Operating funds:										
Cash and short-term investments	$ 1,492	3,266	4,944	4,466	1,547	1,400	21,824	5,777	29,807	14,909
Accounts receivable	3,706	1,734	1,046	587	4,908	7,733	7,954	5,416	17,614	15,470
Due from (to) capital and loan fund	(1,358)	(9)	(1,572)	(990)	(672)	146	4,747	(1,204)	1,145	(2,057)
Inter-district advances, net	5,269	2,468	(1,305)	(727)	952	(1,713)	(4,916)	(28)	–	–
Due from Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation	2,873	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,873	–
Accrued debt charges recoverable from member municipalities	–	–	–	–	900	588	–	–	900	588
Inventories	–	–	–	–	3,584	3,651	9	30	3,593	3,681
Prepaid expenses and other	1,031	1,107	–	–	–	–	42	59	1,073	1,166
	13,013	8,566	3,113	3,336	11,219	11,805	29,660	10,050	57,005	33,757
Long-term loan receivable	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	49	9	49
Trust deposits (note 6)	54,171	47,768	–	–	–	–	–	–	54,171	47,768
	$67,184	56,334	3,113	3,336	11,219	11,805	29,669	10,099	111,185	81,574
Liabilities, Surplus and Reserves										
Operating funds:										
Bank loans (note 4)	$ 4,699	1,970	500	–	–	1,978	3,400	450	8,599	4,398
Accounts payable	7,192	4,205	573	957	728	1,205	5,446	3,655	13,939	10,022
Due to (from) other funds:										
Special funds	377	425	–	–	–	–	27	18	404	443
Sinking fund	132	173	–	–	1,174	80	2,543	(10)	3,849	243
Due to Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation	–	88	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	88
Provision for major repairs	–	–	–	–	531	484	1,884	1,799	2,415	2,283
Accrued debt charges	–	–	–	–	4,238	2,340	10,630	7,599	14,868	9,939
Other liabilities and reserves	(135)	754	–	–	10	351	–	54	(125)	1,159
Total liabilities	12,265	7,615	1,073	957	6,681	6,438	23,930	13,565	43,949	28,575
Surplus (deficit) - Exhibit F	748	951	740	1,079	4,174	5,003	5,739	(3,466)	11,401	3,567
Reserves for other contingencies	–	–	–	–	364	364	–	–	364	364
Reserve for stabilization of tax rates	–	–	1,300	1,300	–	–	–	–	1,300	1,300
Total operating funds	13,013	8,566	3,113	3,336	11,219	11,805	29,669	10,099	57,014	33,806
Trust and deposit liabilities (note 6)	54,171	47,768	–	–	–	–	–	–	54,171	47,768
	$67,184	56,334	3,113	3,336	11,219	11,805	29,669	10,099	111,185	81,574

See accompanying notes to combining financial statements.

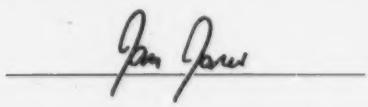
Assistant Treasurer

EXHIBIT C – GREATER VANCOUVER DISTRICTS
SINKING AND DEBT RESERVE FUND COMBINING BALANCE SHEETS

DECEMBER 31, 1991, WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1990 (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

	Regional		Water		Sewerage and Drainage		Combined	
	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990
Assets								
Investments:								
Government of Canada	$ 1,423	1,431	–	473	5,056	3,925	6,479	5,829
Province of British Columbia	245	516	–	44	1,121	1,336	1,366	1,896
Other provinces	3,458	3,465	2,618	1,009	–	–	6,076	4,474
Greater Vancouver Districts	3,734	3,960	–	–	2,631	3,170	6,365	7,130
Total investments	8,860	9,372	2,618	1,526	8,808	8,431	20,286	19,329
Cash and short-term investments	2,788	1,123	3,953	3,369	6,879	13,228	13,620	17,720
Accrued interest	219	217	94	59	170	193	483	469
Due from (to) revenue fund	132	173	1,174	80	2,543	(10)	3,849	243
	$11,999	10,885	7,839	5,034	18,400	21,842	38,238	37,761
Reserves and Surplus								
Accumulated actuarial requirements for retirement of sinking fund debt	$7,802	7,194	–	2,156	5,734	12,866	13,536	22,216
Debt reserve on short-term borrowing and general debt reserve (note 5)	–	–	7,839	2,773	8,797	3,344	16,636	6,117
Surplus – excess of assets over accumulated actuarial requirements and debt reserve, Exhibit G	4,197	3,691	–	105	3,869	5,632	8,066	9,428
	$11,999	10,885	7,839	5,034	18,400	21,842	38,238	37,761

See accompanying notes to combining financial statements.



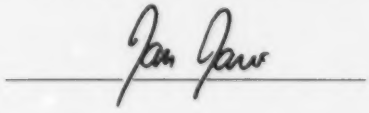
Assistant Treasurer

EXHIBIT D – GREATER VANCOUVER DISTRICTS
SPECIAL FUNDS COMBINING BALANCE SHEETS

DECEMBER 31, 1991, WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1990 (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

	Regional								Sewerage and Drainage		Combined	
	Equipment Fund		Section 811.1 Reserve Fund		Sasamat Fire Dept. Reserve Fund		Self Insurance Fund		Equipment Fund			
	1991	1990	**1991**	1990	**1991**	1990	**1991**	1990	**1991**	1990	**1991**	1990
Assets												
Equipment, at cost, net of accumulated depreciation of $5,672 (1990 - $3,759)	**$2,930**	2,741	–	–	–	–	–	–	**1,282**	1,227	**4,212**	3,968
Due from (to) revenue fund	**148**	258	**3**	(66)	**217**	151	**9**	82	**27**	18	**404**	443
Accrued interest	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	**4**	1	**4**	1
Investments	**446**	95	**445**	476	–	–	**1,578**	1,113	**1,970**	1,731	**4,439**	3,415
	$3,524	3,094	**448**	410	**217**	151	**1,587**	1,195	**3,283**	2,977	**9,059**	7,827
Liabilities, Surplus and Reserve												
Accounts payable and provision for losses incurred	**$ 69**	62	–	–	–	–	**366**	275	–	–	**435**	337
Due to capital fund, long- term advances	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	**409**	409	**409**	409
Surplus and reserve:												
Balance, beginning of year	**3,032**	2,642	**410**	371	**151**	136	**920**	630	**2,568**	2,196	**7,081**	5,975
Contribution from revenue fund	**120**	100	–	–	**47**	18	**284**	284	–	–	**451**	402
Interest income	**303**	290	**39**	57	**17**	20	**140**	124	**306**	372	**805**	863
	3,455	3,032	**449**	428	**215**	174	**1,344**	1,038	**2,874**	2,568	**8,337**	7,240
Deduct:												
Cost of special studies	–	–	**1**	18	–	–	–	–	–	–	**1**	18
Provision for losses incurred	–	–	–	–	–	–	**123**	118	–	–	**123**	118
Emergency repair reserve	–	–	–	–	**(2)**	–	–	–	–	–	**(2)**	–
Contribution to capital and loan fund	–	–	–	–	–	23	–	–	–	–	–	23
Balance, end of year	**3,455**	3,032	**448**	410	**217**	151	**1,221**	920	**2,874**	2,568	**8,215**	7,081
	$3,524	3,094	**448**	410	**217**	151	**1,587**	1,195	**3,283**	2,977	**9,059**	7,827

See accompanying notes to combining financial statements.



Assistant Treasurer

Exhibit E – Greater Vancouver Districts
Combining Statements of Equity in Capital Assets

Year ended December 31, 1991, with comparative figures for 1990 (Thousands of Dollars)

	Regional		Hospital		Water		Sewerage and Drainage		Combined	
	1991	1990	**1991**	1990	**1991**	1990	**1991**	1990	**1991**	1990
Balance, beginning of year	**$40,309**	38,670	**5,320**	4,499	**105,817**	101,481	**138,956**	126,771	**290,402**	271,421
Reduction in long-term debt applicable to Districts' capital assets	**468**	440	**884**	821	**3,587**	4,396	**9,036**	11,069	**13,995**	16,726
Contribution from Sasamat volunteer fire dept capital reserve fund	–	23	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	23
Provincial Government Grants	**690**	224	–	–	–	–	**629**	1,239	**1,319**	1,463
Contribution from revenue fund	**850**	952	–	–	–	–	–	–	**850**	952
	42,317	40,309	**6,204**	5,320	**109,404**	105,877	**148,641**	139,079	**306,566**	290,585
Less: Amortization of debenture issue costs	–	–	–	–	**147**	60	**33**	123	**180**	183
	–	–	–	–	**147**	60	**33**	123	**180**	183
Balance, end of year	**$42,317**	40,309	**6,204**	5,320	**109,257**	105,817	**148,608**	138,956	**306,386**	290,402

See accompanying notes to combining financial statements.

Exhibit F – Greater Vancouver Districts
Revenue Fund Combining Statements of Revenue, Expenditure and Surplus
Year ended December 31, 1991, with comparative figures for 1990 (Thousands of Dollars)

	Regional		Hospital		Water		Sewerage and Drainage		Combined	
	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990
Revenue:										
Members' tax requisitions and levies	$19,728	17,386	40,578	37,913	–	–	43,253	40,471	103,559	95,770
Water sales	–	–	–	–	21,339	19,254	–	–	21,339	19,254
Log sales	–	–	–	–	7,623	8,501	–	–	7,623	8,501
Solid waste user fees	–	–	–	–	–	–	48,043	37,359	48,043	37,359
Steam sales	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,441	2,162	2,441	2,162
Provincial government grants	784	695	43,982	39,796	–	–	–	–	44,766	40,491
Grants in lieu of taxes	234	203	251	419	–	–	–	–	485	622
Ambient air gaseous monitoring	735	710	–	–	–	–	–	–	735	710
Interest income, net	(167)	129	1,185	995	–	–	368	224	1,386	1,348
Other	497	482	–	–	29	50	126	101	652	633
Surplus carried forward from prior year	951	522	1,079	1,064	5,003	8,238	(3,466)	(1,179)	3,567	8,645
Total revenue	22,762	20,127	87,075	80,187	33,994	36,043	90,765	79,138	234,596	215,495
Expenditure:										
Operating:										
Utility operating and maintenance	–	–	–	–	9,454	7,166	18,879	16,690	28,333	23,856
Cost of log sales	–	–	–	–	8,556	11,386	–	–	8,556	11,386
Solid waste	–	–	–	–	–	–	43,549	42,032	43,549	42,032
General government	2,074	2,296	–	–	884	721	1,389	1,217	4,347	4,234
Parks	6,061	5,109	–	–	–	–	–	–	6,061	5,109
Air pollution control	3,428	2,679	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,428	2,679
Labour relations	1,825	1,794	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,825	1,794
E911 Emergency Telephone	3,238	2,538	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,238	2,538
Electoral area services	541	425	–	–	–	–	–	–	541	425
Hospital planning	830	540	–	–	–	–	–	–	830	540
Development services	1,893	1,644	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,893	1,644
Other	–	–	4	9	608	652	1,236	839	1,848	1,500
Total operating	$19,890	17,025	4	9	19,502	19,925	65,053	60,778	104,449	97,737
Fiscal services:										
Debt charges:										
Long-term debt	41,129	42,314	86,622	76,310	8,955	6,258	19,350	15,003	156,056	139,885
Foreign exchange	1,498	1,849	–	–	157	219	138	159	1,793	2,227
Interest on temporary capital borrowing	–	80	735	2,097	6,128	9,365	11,176	17,653	18,039	29,195
Gross debt charges	42,627	44,243	87,357	78,407	15,240	15,842	30,664	32,815	175,888	171,307
Less recovered from:										
Members	41,753	43,162	–	–	3,192	2,893	–	–	44,945	46,055
Operations	–	–	3,377	2,826	1,730	1,834	10,691	10,968	15,798	15,628
Interest capitalized	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	21	–	21
Net debt charges	874	1,081	83,980	75,581	10,318	11,115	19,973	21,826	115,145	109,603
Contribution to capital and other funds	1,250	1,070	2,351	2,218	–	–	–	–	3,601	3,288
Reserve for stabilization of tax rates	–	–	–	1,300	–	–	–	–	–	1,300
Total fiscal services	2,124	2,151	86,331	79,099	10,318	11,115	19,973	21,826	118,746	114,191
Total expenditure	22,014	19,176	86,335	79,108	29,820	31,040	85,026	82,604	223,195	211,928
Surplus (deficit)	$748	951	740	1,079	4,174	5,003	5,739	(3,466)	11,401	3,567

See accompanying notes to combining financial statements.

Exhibit G – Greater Vancouver Districts
Sinking and Debt Reserve Fund Combining Statements of Income and Surplus
December 31, 1991, with comparative figures for 1990 (Thousands of dollars)

	Regional		Water		Sewerage and Drainage		Combined	
	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990
Income:								
Instalments received (note 7)	$107	107	2,275	2,266	2,968	3,070	5,350	5,443
Interest	1,008	1,711	532	348	1,707	2,169	3,247	4,228
Amortization of discount and premium, net	27	(35)	2	10	–	–	29	(25)
Net gain (loss) on securities matured or sold	–	(26)	–	–	133	(26)	133	(52)
	1,142	1,757	2,809	2,624	4,808	5,213	8,759	9,594
Deduct:								
Increase in actuarial requirements and debt reserve	607	921	2,910	2,555	4,497	3,967	8,014	7,443
Other expenses	29	27	4	4	17	13	50	44
Excess of net income over actuarial requirements	506	809	(105)	65	294	1,233	695	2,107
Exchange on conversion of investments to Canadian funds	–	157	–	–	–	–	–	157
Surplus, beginning of year	3,691	10,633	105	40	5,632	4,399	9,428	15,072
	4,197	11,599	–	105	5,926	5,632	10,123	17,336
Amount transferred from general debt reserve	–	–	–	–	(1,228)	–	(1,228)	–
Surplus on debentures redeemed, transferred to other funds	–	7,908	–	–	3,285	–	3,285	7,908
Surplus, end of year	$4,197	3,691	–	105	3,869	5,632	8,066	9,428

See accompanying notes to combining financial statements.

EXHIBIT H – GREATER VANCOUVER DISTRICTS
CAPITAL AND LOAN FUND
COMBINING STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1991, WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1990 (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

	Regional		Hospital		Water		Sewerage and Drainage		Combined	
	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990
Funds provided from:										
Operations - depreciation and amortization	$ –	–	56	56	–	–	–	–	56	56
Long-term debt issues	40,261	8,400	51,839	101,834	41,550	–	59,707	–	193,357	110,234
Actuarial requirement transferred from sinking and debt reserve fund	–	–	–	–	–	–	4,948	–	4,948	–
Surplus transferred from sinking and debt reserve fund	–	–	–	–	–	1,047	3,307	3,587	3,307	4,634
Contribution from revenue fund	1,085	952	2,351	2,218	–	–	–	–	3,436	3,170
Increase (decrease) in short-term borrowing, net	–	5,061	8,687	(35,210)	174	13,773	–	2,473	8,861	(13,903)
Proceeds on disposal of land, property, plant and equipment	–	–	–	–	74	33	–	–	74	33
Windup of foreign exchange fund	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	242	–	242
Provincial Government Grants	690	225	–	–	400	–	629	1,239	1,719	1,464
Sasamat volunteer fire dept capital reserve fund	–	23	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	23
Realization of sinking fund assets	–	–	–	–	–	2,708	–	–	–	2,708
	$42,036	14,661	62,933	68,898	42,198	17,561	68,591	7,541	215,758	108,661
Funds applied to:										
Property, plant and equipment, net of depreciation	$2,013	6,261	–	–	12,687	14,853	15,543	8,133	30,243	29,247
Grants capitalized	–	–	62,933	68,898	–	–	–	–	62,933	68,898
Repayment of debenture debt	–	–	–	–	20,000	2,708	–	–	20,000	2,708
Decrease in short-term borrowing, net	5,920	–	–	–	9,511	–	34,948	–	50,379	–
Loans advanced to member municipalities	33,988	8,400	–	–	–	–	15,705	–	49,693	8,400
Increase in mortgage receivable	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	(1,623)	–	(1,623)
Other	115	–	–	–	–	–	2,395	1,031	2,510	1,031
	$42,036	14,661	62,933	68,898	42,198	17,561	68,591	7,541	215,758	108,661

See accompanying notes to combining financial statements.

1. Significant accounting policies:

The accounting policies of the Districts conform to accounting principles generally accepted for British Columbia municipalities and include the following:

(a) Basis of combination:

These combining financial statements include the accounts of the Greater Vancouver Regional District ("Regional District"), Greater Vancouver Regional Hospital District ("Hospital District"), Greater Vancouver Water District ("Water District") and Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District ("Sewerage District") (collectively the "Greater Vancouver Districts").

The combined amounts do not in all cases equal the sum of the other related amounts as inter-district balances and transactions have been eliminated.

(b) Exchange translation:

Long-term debt and agreements receivable from member municipalities (Exhibit A), debt reserve fund demand notes payable and receivable (note 6) (Exhibit B) and sinking fund investments (Exhibit C) in United States funds are stated in Canadian dollars on a dollar for dollar basis. Foreign exchange gains or losses on long-term debt interest and principal are recognized at the time of payment and, where applicable, are passed on to member municipalities.

(c) Projects owned during construction and grants to District hospitals capitalized, net:

The Hospital District acts as owner during construction of certain projects. Upon completion of such projects the title to the facility passes to the particular hospital and the carrying costs are transferred to grants to District hospitals capitalized. Depreciation is not provided on projects owned during construction. The District also makes outright grants to District hospitals for approved projects. To finance its projects the District raises funds through the issue of debentures to the British Columbia Regional Hospital Districts Financing Authority. Debenture debt principal and sinking fund instalments, together with actuarial sinking fund earnings and the contributions from various sources, which at December 31, 1991 amounted to $181,065 (1990 - $171,236), are deducted from grants capitalized in the capital and loan fund combining balance sheets. The grants capitalized and the cumulative reductions of long-term debt will be eliminated when the related debt is retired.

(d) Grants from Province of British Columbia and others to the Hospital District:

Under the provisions of the Hospital District Act, the Provincial Government is obliged to pay a grant of sixty percent of the annual principal and interest charges on capital borrowing relative to approved shareable capital expenditures.

Grants received with respect to expenditures shareable with the Provincial Government and rental income from the District's land and buildings are included in the deduction from grants capitalized on the capital and loan fund combining balance sheets. Contributions received with respect to expenditures not shareable with the Provincial Government are credited directly to grants capitalized.

(e) Utility plant, park properties and Hospital District land and buildings (property and plant):

Grants received and amounts forgiven under financing agreements with senior levels of government with respect to the construction of utility plant, and grants received with respect to the acquisition and development of recreational facilities and park properties, are credited to equity in capital assets. Depreciation is not provided on these facilities, however, principal repayments on the related debenture debt are recorded as a charge against revenue. Amortization is provided on logging roads and related facilities, as timber is removed, at rates determined with reference to volumes of timber estimated to be removable. Costs of repairs and maintenance are charged to operations. Costs of renewals and replacements of these facilities are capitalized. Upon retirement or disposal of these facilities, the cost net of proceeds is charged to equity in capital assets. Interest is capitalized during construction with respect to projects on which the related debt charges are recoverable through user charges. During 1991, interest of $nil (1990 - $21) was capitalized in the Sewerage District with respect to the construction of regional facilities.

(f) Equipment:

Depreciation is provided on equipment on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Upon retirement or disposal of equipment, the cost and related depreciation are removed from the District's accounts and any gain or loss is included in net operating revenue for the year.

Costs of repairs and depreciation are recovered from operations and capital projects. Major repair expenditures which improve or extend the useful lives of assets are capitalized.

(g) Inventories:

Log inventories are valued at the lower of average cost and net realizable value. Materials and supplies inventories are valued at the lower of moving-average cost and replacement cost.

(h) Investments:

Investments are carried at cost, adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts on a yield basis.

(i) Debt charges:

(a) Water and Sewerage Districts:
Debt servicing requirements, comprising principal repayments and interest charges, are accrued as a charge against revenue for the periods from the dates of the latest payment to the end of the fiscal year. Accordingly, the accrued debt charges at the fiscal year-end are included in the revenue fund combining balance sheets. A

similar accounting policy applies in the Water District to the principal and interest payments on agreements receivable from members. There are no corresponding accrued debt charges recoverable under Sewerage District agreements receivable from members included in the revenue fund combining balance sheets as these recoveries of expenditure are accrued and included in the current levy against members.

(b) Regional and Hospital Districts:
Debt servicing requirements comprising principal repayments and interest charges are charged against revenue as incurred, without accrual of interest between payment dates. A similar accounting policy applies to the principal and interest payments on agreements receivable from member municipalities.

(j) Regional District section 811.1 reserve fund:

Under the provisions of Section 811.1 of the Municipal Act, the District has established a reserve fund. This reserve fund is for the purpose of paying the cost of undertaking feasibility studies in respect of the possible introduction of a local or extended service.

All costs of feasibility studies in respect of a function subsequently undertaken by the District are then recoverable by the reserve fund. The accumulated unrecovered costs of studies to December 31, 1991 amounted to $709 (1990 - $708).

(k) Hospital District reserve for Section 20(2) capital expenditures:

The District is empowered under this section of the Hospital District Act to assess a special levy not to exceed a prescribed amount. A significant portion of the amounts raised under this section is contributed to the capital and loan fund and set aside in a separate reserve to provide grants to District hospitals for financing minor hospital projects.

(l) Contribution to Regional District Capital and Loan Fund:

An annual contribution, equal to the excess of parks function revenue over expenditures before this contribution, is made from the revenue fund to the capital and loan fund for purposes of park property acquisition and development.

(m) Accumulated vacation and sick leave:

Unused employee vacation and sick leave entitlements of $3,600 (1990 - $3,200) have not been provided for in the accompanying financial statements and will be charged to operations in the year paid.

(n) Regional District self insurance fund:

A self insurance fund has been established to cover losses resulting from uninsured liability exposures of the Greater Vancouver Districts and the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation.

Each year a review is undertaken to determine if it would be beneficial to purchase liability insurance. The Greater Vancouver Districts and the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation contribute to the fund depending on the Fund's adequacy to cover retained liability risk.

The provision for losses incurred represents an estimate for all costs of investigating and settling of claims incurred prior to the balance sheet date. Any estimate of future loss activity is necessarily subject to uncertainty and is selected from a range of possible outcomes. These provisions are adjusted up or down as additional information on the estimated amounts becomes known during the course of claims settlement. All changes in estimates are expensed in the current period.

2. Agreements receivable from member municipalities, net of sinking funds:

The Regional, Water and Sewerage Districts have entered into agreements with certain municipalities for the purpose of financing municipal undertakings. Under the terms of these agreements each municipality is required to provide for and remit to the Districts certain sums, but if the sums provided for are not sufficient to meet the obligations of the Districts, the deficiency shall be a liability of the municipality to the Districts.

Principal payments (including sinking fund instalments) recoverable from members to maturity are as follows:

1992	$15,215
1993	15,386
1994	15,431
1995	16,138
1996	13,573
1992 - 1996	75,743
1997 - 2001	41,034
2002 - 2006	15,718
2007 - 2011	7,915

Included in agreements receivable at December 31, 1991 are amounts aggregating $45,383 repayable in United States funds. The Canadian equivalent of these receivables translated at the rate prevailing at December 31, 1991 is greater than the recorded amount by $7,047 (see also note 5(d)).

A summary by district of sinking fund balances, which have been deducted from agreements receivable from members, at December 31 is as follows:

	1991	1990
Regional District	$91,603	$81,069
Water District	1,481	1,075
Sewerage District	6,566	10,622
Combined	$99,650	$92,766

With respect to certain agreements receivable from member municipalities, the sinking fund assets are in excess of the respective agreements receivable, and accordingly, these are shown as a liability to the members.

3. Investment in the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation, at cost:

The Regional District owns all of the shares in the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation which is a non-profit corporation created to provide social housing within the Regional District.

4. Bank loans:

Bank loans of the Regional, Water and Sewerage Districts are secured by the hypothecation of temporary debentures issued by those districts.

5. Long-term debt:

(a) Regional District:

All monies borrowed by the District are upon its credit at large and shall, in the event of any default, constitute an indebtedness for which its member municipalities are jointly and severally liable.

Since 1970 the District has financed additions to municipal facilities requested by members under agreements entered into with the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (the "Authority" or "MFA"). Under the terms of these agreements the District is required to provide for and pay over to the Authority certain sums, but if these sums are not sufficient to meet the obligations of the Authority undertaken on behalf of the District, the deficiency shall be the liability of the District to the Authority. The District will, in turn, be reimbursed by the member municipalities whose undertakings were financed out of the proceeds of these obligations.

(b) Hospital District:

As at December 31, 1991 the District's total "shareable" capital borrowing amounted to $575,331 (1990 - $558,743). As the parking facilities operated by the District were approved shareable capital expenditures (see note l(d)), the Provincial Government receives sixty percent of the net operating income of these facilities.

Substantially all of the District's long-term debt is issued to the British Columbia Regional Hospital Districts Financing Authority and this debt is guaranteed by the Province of British Columbia.

(c) Water and Sewerage Districts:

Every debt incurred and every debenture or other security issued by the Water and Sewerage Districts is and shall be a direct, joint and several obligation and liability of the respective District and each and every member municipality.

Certain sinking fund debenture issues matured five years from their issue dates, and to partially retire the debt at maturity the relative by-laws provided for annual sinking fund payments based on a 20 year capitalization period. The balances of these debentures were refinanced upon maturity by short-term promissory notes. The District has set up a debt reserve for these issues with the instalments continuing at the amount based on the original 20 year capitalization period.

The Districts have established a general debt reserve fund for the future retirement of short-term promissory notes. During 1991, the Districts made instalments of $1,807 (1990 - $1,954) to this fund. It is the Districts' intention that these funds together with accumulated earnings thereon be transferred to a sinking fund at the time such promissory notes are refinanced on a long-term basis.

(d) All Districts:

(i) If the Districts' long-term debt payable in foreign currencies together with agreements issued to the Authority which relate to obligations of the Authority payable in foreign currencies, net of foreign currency sinking fund assets, had been converted into Canadian dollars at the rates of exchange prevailing at December 31, 1991, the Districts' liability for such debt would have exceeded the amount recorded in their accounts by $7,936 (1990 - $9,136).

(ii) Long-term debt retirement (including sinking fund instalments) to maturity is as follows:

1992	$41,840
1993	40,843
1994	39,973
1995	37,904
1996	32,591
1992 - 1996	193,151
1997 - 2001	107,197
2002 - 2006	51,666
2007 - 2011	26,731

6. Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia debt reserve fund:

With respect to amounts financed through the Authority, the Regional District is required to pay into a debt reserve fund administered by the Authority, an amount equal to one-half the average annual instalment of principal and interest relative to any borrowing for its own purposes and on behalf of member municipalities. This amount may be paid either in full or in an amount equal to 1% of the principal amount borrowed together with a non-interest bearing demand note for the balance. Similarly, the Regional District receives cash deposits and demand notes from member municipalities with respect to their share of the funds borrowed from the Authority.

If, at any time, the Authority does not have sufficient funds to meet payments or sinking fund contributions due on its obligations, the payments or sinking fund contributions shall be made from the debt reserve fund. The demand notes payable to the Authority and receivable from member municipalities, are callable only if there are additional requirements to be met to maintain the level of the debt reserve fund. The amounts due from the Authority to the Regional District and the Regional District to member municipalities will be repaid when the final instalments under their respective loan agreements have been made. These amounts include notes payable in U.S. funds of $3,748 (1990 - $3,858) of which $3,728 (1990 - $3,838) is offset by notes receivable in U.S. funds from member municipalities.

Details of trust funds in the Regional District at December 31 are as follows:

	1991	1990
Trust deposits:		
MFA debt reserve fund:		
Cash deposits	$16,572	$14,604
Demand notes (contra)	19,164	16,761
	35,736	31,365
Demand notes receivable from member municipalities, without interest	18,435	16,403
	$54,171	$47,768
Trust and deposit liabilities:		
Due to member municipalities for MFA debt reserve fund requirements:		
Cash deposits	$16,272	$14,393
Demand notes (contra)	18,435	16,403
	34,707	30,796
Demand notes payable to MFA, without interest	19,164	16,761
Prepaid debt levies	300	211
	$54,171	$47,768

7. Sinking funds:

Sinking funds relative to the long-term debt owing to the MFA (Regional District) and the British Columbia Regional Hospital Districts Financing Authority (Hospital District) are not managed by the Districts, and accordingly, are not recorded in Exhibit C, but are included in long-term debt sinking funds shown in Exhibit A.

(a) Regional District:

Sinking fund instalments amounting to Canadian $76 and U.S. $56 (1990 - Canadian $340 and U.S. $144) were not paid into the sinking fund as the fund had sufficient resources to retire the related debentures on their respective maturity dates without further instalments.

With respect to MFA sinking fund type agreements, the Authority has established either a normal sinking fund or a capital repayment equalization fund, except for certain agreements where the Authority has issued serial type debentures. At December 31, 1991 the amounts to the credit of these funds or the cumulative debt repayments exceeded the actuarial requirements of the corresponding regional districts' sinking fund agreements.

To finance certain MFA sinking fund agreements with regional districts the Authority has issued securities which mature considerably earlier than, or that are redeemable, at the option of the holder, prior to the maturity date of the corresponding regional districts' agreements. The Authority will be required to refinance all or a portion of these financings, except where the holder does not exercise this option on certain issues.

(b) Hospital District:

As at December 31, 1991 the British Columbia Regional Hospital Districts Financing Authority (the "Hospital Authority") sinking fund assets at cost, relative to the District's debt, are $39,768 (1990 - $32,036) in excess of the actuarial requirements.

Where the Minister of Finance has certified that the assets of the sinking fund for a particular debenture are sufficient to meet all obligations respecting the payment of principal and interest under the debenture, the District's share of any excess of the assets of the sinking fund over the amount required to meet the obligations under the debenture, shall be refunded to the District by the Hospital Authority and such amounts will then be recognized in the Revenue Fund.

(c) Water and Sewerage Districts:

Sinking fund instalments amounting to $65 (1990 - $65) were not paid into the sinking funds as the funds had sufficient resources to retire the related debentures on their respective maturity dates without further instalments. At December 31, 1991 the outstanding debt on these issues aggregated $3,000 (1990 - $3,000) whereas the related equity in the sinking fund at that date amounted to $2,341 (1990 - $2,165).

Where sinking fund debentures were issued to finance internal water and sewerage and drainage facilities for certain member municipalities, the share of any sinking fund surplus or deficit remaining after the related debenture obligations have been redeemed is apportioned to such member municipalities in the ratio in which they participated in the debenture issue.

8. Promissory notes:

Promissory notes outstanding pursuant to bylaws authorized by the Boards of Administration of the Districts are for average terms of 30 days and bear interest at money market rates.

9. Authorized capital expenditures:

The Boards of Administration of the Regional, Water and Sewerage Districts have authorized the construction of additions to property, plant and equipment at an estimated cost of $56,291, of which $31,282 has been expended to December 31, 1991.

As at December 31, 1991, the Hospital District has authorized the granting of aid to District hospitals for projects aggregating approximately $251,039. Some of these projects are subject to the approval of the Province of British Columbia.

10. Contingent liabilities:

As at December 31, 1991 there were lawsuits pending against the Districts arising in the ordinary course of business. The Districts have retained legal counsel to defend against these lawsuits. Management is of the opinion that recoveries, if any, from the Districts by the plaintiffs are not likely to be material and no provision has been made in the accounts for any liability which might accrue to the Districts in connection with these lawsuits.

All employees of the Districts are members or are eligible to become members of the Municipal Superannuation Fund administered by the Province of British Columbia. As of December 31, 1988, the latest actuarial evaluation of the Fund, the Districts' share of the unfunded pension liability for basic pension benefits is estimated to be $8,700.

11. Comparative figures:

Certain of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the presentation adopted in the current year.

12. Subsequent event:

In January and March of 1992 the Board of Directors of the Regional District and the Boards of Administration of the Water District and Sewerage District authorized borrowing through their respective financing authorities as follows:

Regional District	$16,866
Water District	58,000
Sewerage District	110,000

In January and April of 1992 the Water and Sewerage Districts issued debentures totalling $38,000 and $83,000 respectively.

In March 1992 the Regional District Board of Directors also authorized certain callable debentures in the amount of $7,189 to be called for redemption on their respective redemption dates during 1992.

Auditors' Report to the Shareholder of The Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation

We have audited the combined balance sheet of the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation as at December 31, 1991 and the statements of reserves, rental operations surplus, rental operations revenue and expenditure, non-rental operations revenue and expenditure and the combined statement of changes in financial position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Corporation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at December 31, 1991 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles disclosed in note 1 to the financial statements. As required by the Company Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Peat Marwick Thorne

Chartered Accountants
Vancouver, Canada
March 13, 1992

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EXHIBIT A – GREATER VANCOUVER HOUSING CORPORATION
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 1991, WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1990 (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

	1991	1990
Assets		
Housing rental properties, at cost	**$210,308**	$208,424
Accounts receivable and accrued interest	**504**	420
Due from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	**448**	–
Due from Greater Vancouver Regional District	**–**	88
Investments:		
Short-term	**10,579**	12,903
Government of Canada and provincial bonds, market value $20,270 (1990 - $13,410)	**18,487**	14,104
	29,066	27,007
Equipment, at cost less accumulated depreciation	**27**	29
	$240,353	$235,968
Liabilities, Reserves and Shareholder's Equity		(Restated – note 6)
Mortgages and debentures payable (note 2)	**$197,901**	$199,164
Accrued debt charges	**3,379**	3,486
Other liabilities:		
Tenants' security deposits	**1,044**	963
Accounts payable	**956**	610
Due to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	**–**	1,401
Due to Greater Vancouver Regional District	**2,873**	–
Due to British Columbia Housing Management Corporation	**6**	14
Deferred revenue	**39**	45
	206,198	205,683
Reserves, Exhibit B:		
Capital	**3,932**	3,559
Replacement	**17,548**	16,158
Rental subsidy	**2,011**	1,837
	23,491	21,554
Shareholder's equity:		
Capital stock:		
Authorized and issued 2,000 shares with a par value of $1 per share	**2**	2
Rental operations surplus (deficit), Exhibit C	**279**	(391)
Equity in capital assets (note 3)	**10,383**	9,120
	10,664	8,731
Contingent liabilities (note 7)		
	$240,353	$235,968

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

Ruth Johnson Director

M. W. Boger Director

Exhibit B – Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation
Statements of Reserves

Year ended December 31, 1991, with comparative figures for 1990 (Thousands of dollars)

	Capital		Replacement		Rental subsidy	
	1991	1990	**1991**	1990	**1991**	1990
			(restated – note 6)			
Balance, beginning of year, as previously reported	**$3,559**	5,430	**$15,767**	13,752	**$1,837**	1,650
Correction (note 6)	**–**	–	**391**	–	**–**	–
Balance, beginning of years, as restated	**3,559**	5,430	**16,158**	13,752	**1,837**	1,650
Contribution from:						
Rental operations:						
Exhibit D	**–**	–	**1,598**	1,598	**–**	(1)
Exhibit C	**–**	–	**–**	280	**–**	–
Non-rental operations, Exhibit E	**393**	292	**–**	–	**–**	–
Transfer to revenue - fund, Exhibit C	**–**	(2,160)	**–**	–	**–**	–
Interest earned	**–**	–	**1,576**	1,590	**174**	188
	3,952	3,562	**19,332**	17,220	**2,011**	1,837
Expenditure incurred	**20**	3	**1,784**	1,062	**–**	–
Balance, end of year	**$3,932**	3,559	**$17,548**	16,158	**$2,011**	1,837

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Exhibit C – Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation
Statements of Rental Operations Surplus

Year ended December 31, 1991, with comparative figures for 1990 (Thousands of dollars)

	1991			1990 (restated - note 6)		
	Section 15.1 projects	**Section 56.1 projects**	**Total**	Section 15.1 projects	Section 56.1 projects	Total
Balance, beginning of year, as previously reported	**$ –**	**–**	**–**	**$ –**	(2,160)	(2,160)
Correction (note 6)	**–**	**391**	**391**	–	–	–
Balance, beginning of years, as restated	**–**	**(391)**	**(391)**	–	(2,160)	(2,160)
Net income (loss) from rental operations for the year, Exhibit D	**279**	**391**	**670**	83	(391)	(308)
Transfer to replacement reserve, Exhibit B	**–**	**–**	**–**	(280)	–	(280)
Transfer from non-rental operations, Exhibit E	**–**	**–**	**–**	197	–	197
Transfer from capital reserve fund, Exhibit B	**–**	**–**	**–**	–	2,160	2,160
Balance, end of year	**$279**	**–**	**279**	**$ –**	(391)	(391)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Exhibit D – Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation
Statement of Rental Operations Revenue and Expenditure

Year ended December 31, 1991, with comparative figures for 1990 (Thousands of dollars)

	1991	1990
		(restated – note 6)
Revenue:		
Property rentals	$21,743	$20,653
Senior government assistance (note 4)	12,962	12,274
Other	315	296
	35,020	33,223
Expenditure:		
Operating expenses:		
Salaries and employee benefits	1,424	1,301
Transportation	83	85
Utilities	897	792
Advertising	68	16
Insurance	190	211
Repairs and maintenance	2,559	1,904
Decorating and cleaning	880	735
Other services and supplies	137	78
Property taxes and licences	2,124	2,190
Garbage removal	296	259
Gardening	338	449
Security	43	59
General expenses	78	74
Land lease	46	46
Management fee, Exhibit E	1,189	1,121
Provision for:		
Replacement reserve, Exhibit B	1,598	1,598
Bad and doubtful debts	66	33
	12,016	10,951
Debt charges:		
Interest (note 5)	21,077	21,500
Debt retirement	1,257	1,081
	22,334	22,581
	34,350	33,532
Operating income (loss) before the undernoted	670	(309)
Transfer from rental subsidy reserve fund	–	1
Net income (loss) for the year	$670	$(308)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Exhibit E – Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation
Statement of Non-Rental Operations Revenue and Expenditure

Year ended December 31, 1991, with comparative figures for 1990 (Thousands of dollars)

	1991	1990
Revenue:		
Investment income (loss):		
Capital reserve fund interest	$ 341	$ 314
Revenue fund interest	279	362
	620	676
Management fee charged to rental operations, Exhibit D	1,189	1,121
	1,809	1,797
Expenditure:		
Administration and property management	1,392	1,284
Capital fund interest	24	24
	1,416	1,308
Net operating income	$ 393	$ 489
Allocation of net operating income:		
Contribution to capital reserve fund, Exhibit B	$ 393	$ 292
Contribution to rental operations, Exhibit C	–	197
	$ 393	$ 489

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

EXHIBIT F – GREATER VANCOUVER HOUSING CORPORATION
COMBINED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1991, WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1990 (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

	1991	1990
Cash provided by (used in):		(restated – note 6)
Operations:		
Operating income (loss):		
Rental operations	$ 670	$ (308)
Non-rental operations	393	489
Interest earned	1,750	1,778
Expenditures	(20)	(4)
Add (deduct):		
Items not affecting cash:		
Depreciation and amortization	13	38
Provision for replacement reserve	1,598	1,598
Profit on disposal of property	–	–
Net changes in other operating balances	(1,627)	1,324
	2,777	4,915
Financing:		
Long-term debt, net	–	(55)
Increase in advances from Greater Vancouver Districts	2,961	1,922
	2,961	1,867
Investments:		
Additions to:		
Housing rental properties (net)	(1,884)	(3)
Equipment (net)	(4)	–
Replacement reserve expenditures incurred	(1,784)	(1,062)
Net investment sales (purchases)	(4,390)	2,600
	(8,062)	1,535
Increase (decrease) in short-term investments during the year	(2,324)	8,317
Short-term investments, beginning of year	12,903	4,586
Short-term investments, end of year	$10,579	$12,903

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1991
(ALL AMOUNTS ARE EXPRESSED IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

1. Significant accounting policies:

The Corporation is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Great Vancouver Regional District; the accounting policies of the Corporation conform to accounting principles generally accepted for British Columbia Public Housing Corporations and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and including the following:

(a) Basis of presentation:

The combined balance sheet and combined statement of changes in financial position include the capital, revenue, capital reserve, replacement reserve and rental subsidy reserve funds.

(b) Rental properties:

Amounts forgiven under financing agreements with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation ("CMHC") with respect to construction or acquisition of rental properties, are credited to equity in capital assets.

Depreciation is not provided on rental properties, however, principal repayments on the related debt are recorded as a charge against revenue.

The Corporation capitalizes all housing rental property expenditures, including interest and property taxes, incurred to the date of completion of the project. In addition, net rental losses are capitalized following completion of the building for a period equal to the lesser of the time required to achieve 90% occupancy and one year.

Costs of repairs and maintenance are charged to operations. Costs of renewals and replacements of rental properties, other than those charged to the replacement reserve, are capitalized. Upon retirement or disposal of rental properties, the cost, net of any proceeds, is charged to equity in capital assets.

(c) Equipment:

Costs of equipment repair are charged to operations except for those expenditures which improve or extend the useful life of the equipment. Upon retirement or disposal of assets, the cost and related depreciation are removed from the accounts and any gain or loss is included in net operating revenue for the year.

Depreciation is provided on equipment on a straight-line basis over its estimated useful life and is charged to various revenue fund costs.

(d) Debt charges:

Debt servicing requirements comprising principal repayments and interest are accrued, as a charge against revenue, for the periods from the dates of the latest payment to the end of the fiscal year. Accordingly, the accrued debt charges at the fiscal year end are included in the revenue fund balance sheet.

(e) Replacement reserve:

Under operating agreements entered into with CMHC, a reserve is required to be provided from rental operations for the replacement of equipment and specified building components. Under the agreements, a maximum contribution of 1% per annum of the original construction cost of the building, from the inception of a project, is allowed as a provision against rental revenue for the purpose of calculating the operating income or loss upon which the mortgage assistance from CMHC is based. Any expenditures from this reserve must be approved by CMHC.

(f) Rental subsidy reserve:

A rental subsidy reserve pursuant to Section 56.1 of the National Housing Act ("NHA") may be provided from rental operations to a maximum of $0.5 per unit.

(g) Investments:

Investments are carried at cost, adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts on a yield basis.

(h) Accumulated vacation and sick leave:

Unused employee vacation and sick leave entitlements are not provided for in the accompanying financial statements and are recorded in the year paid.

(i) Self insurance fund:

The Corporation participates, along with the Greater Vancouver Districts, in a self insurance fund administered by the Greater Vancouver Regional District. The fund has been established to cover costs resulting from uninsured liability exposure. Each year a review is undertaken to determine if it would be beneficial to purchase liability insurance. Premiums may be paid to the fund depending on the fund's adequacy to cover retained liability risk.

2. Mortgages and debentures payable:

Mortgages payable with respect to projects constructed pursuant to Section 56.1 of the NHA are secured by specific charges on housing rental properties as well as a general assignment of rents and a chattel mortgage on the fixtures and equipment.

During 1984, the Corporation received an advance of $62 with respect to Franklin House secured by a Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program mortgage. Providing the Corporation is not in default, the balance of this mortgage shall be forgiven in annual amounts of $6.

Principal repayments due under the terms of the long-term debt for the five years ended December 31, 1996 are as follows:

1992	$1,496
1993	1,655
1994	1,827
1995	2,026
1996	2,229

3. Equity in capital assets:

Changes in equity in capital assets for the year ended December 31, are as follows:

	1991	1990
Balance, beginning of year	$9,120	$8,033
Long-term debt retirement	1,257	1,081
Forgiveness of CMHC mortgage debt (note 2)	6	6
Balance, end of year	$10,383	$9,120

4. Senior government assistance:

Details of senior government assistance are as follows:

(a) CMHC mortgage assistance on NHA Section 56.1 projects:

The Corporation has entered into agreements with CMHC pursuant to Section 56.1 of the NHA whereby CMHC will provide mortgage assistance to the Corporation which will reduce the interest cost to not less than 2% on all mortgages payable.

The mortgage assistance on a project is reduced by repaying to CMHC any surplus funds after allowing for:

(i) the provision of a rental subsidy reserve to a maximum of $0.5 per rental property unit

(ii) the allocation of the annual operating surplus on a housing project, after providing the full rental subsidy reserve, to operating deficits in other projects.

(b) CMHC financing assistance on NHA Section 15.1 projects:

Under the terms of financing agreements with CMHC, pursuant to Section 15.1 of the NHA, the Corporation financed nine rental properties by issuing a 49 year debenture on each project at an interest rate of 8%, which was less than the market rate of interest prevailing at the time the financing agreements were entered into. In addition, CMHC granted a forgiveness of 10% of the capital cost on each of these rental properties.

(c) CMHC mortgage insurance:

Pursuant to Section 5 of the NHA, CMHC has undertaken to insure mortgages payable by the Corporation.

(d) NHA Section 44(1) (a) and (b) subsidy:

Rental supplements are authorized under Section 44(1) (a) and (b) of the NHA and are funded jointly by CMHC on behalf of the Federal Government and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on behalf of the Province of British Columbia.

5. Interest expense:

	1991	1990
Interest charges incurred:		
Mortgages payable	$19,498	$19,914
Debentures payable	–	1,586
Short-term	1,579	–
	$21,077	$21,500

6. Correction:

During 1991, the Corporation and CMHC agreed that certain maintenance expenditures incurred in 1990 and charged to the replacement reserve fund as replacements of equipment and specified building components should be charged to the revenue fund statement of rental operations revenue and expenditure. Accordingly, expenditures charged to the replacement reserve fund for 1990 have been reduced by $390 and repairs and maintenance expense charged to the revenue fund statement of rental operations revenue and expenditure for 1990 have increased by the same amount.

7. Contingent liabilities:

As at December 31, 1991 there were lawsuits pending against the Corporation arising in the ordinary course of business. The Corporation has retained legal counsel to defend against these lawsuits. Management is of the opinion that recoveries, if any, from the Corporation, by the plaintiffs are not likely to be material and no provision has been made in the accounts for any liability which might accrue to the Corporation in connection with these lawsuits.

8. Comparative figures:

Certain of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with presentation adopted in the current year.